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CENTRAL AMERICA.

THE Blue-book before us on this subject will take a long time in getting melted down into popular information, and becoming current among the people. It is desirable, however, that the process should early take place; for, if we are really quarrelling with America, we may as well, all of us, know what we have to differ about. Now, there are some grounds of fair and honest dispute *in re* Central America, whereas the enlistment matter is a vexatious bit of punctilio, brought on by the imprudence of the Foreign Office. Central America is a region of the world, made, by circumstances, of the highest importance just now. We have some claims there; the Yankees have some claims there. The treaty of 1850 did not settle these, but must all be done over again. In the meantime the course of events is hastening on; a province there has fallen into Yankee hands, and is "recognised;" and if we do not settle matters soon, they will certainly settle themselves by force, and war will ultimately come of them.

Our claims in those regions are not new, but it was not till about 1849 that they became of great importance to the States. In September of that year, Mr. Clayton, Mr. Laurence (his envoy to us), and Lord Palmerston, were busy discussing a proposed canal across the isthmus of Panama by way of the Lakes of Nicaragua. The traffic from California would evidently be a great matter; commerce must increase between the Atlantic and Pacific. How secure a good route, and benefit the future of the world? The route must lie through the States of certain Spanish American republics,—representatives (in their way) of the old days when Spain was a great and colonising Power. Now, as the condition of these States (one of which has been seized by Walker) is a matter of importance, we shall quote a description of them by Lord John Russell, a few years ago. Lord John is of a historical turn, and must be a pretty good judge. He says:—

"These petty States are but little advanced in the arts of civilised life—have little appreciation of the high value of commercial intercourse as the great medium of civilisation and freedom, as well as of national and individual wealth—have but rude notions of the paramount importance of impartial administration of justice,—and afford by their proceedings, since they attained to independence, but little proof of their power of self-government, or even of that of preserving peace with each other."—P. 203.

Rather ticklish States to deal with in a civilized manner. So, the great men above-named laid their heads together, to consult how England and America could best protect transit through them. A treaty seemed rational; but, of course, there required preliminary discussions in plenty—all conducted in the fine, dignified, long-winded

way peculiar to diplomacy. Both States disclaimed any wish to "settle, annex, colonise, or fortify" the territory, and professed the best intentions. Companies were soon under weigh—for trade *will* move, let Governments halt as they please—and traffic, by going on, created new difficulties. It soon became evident that England and America must settle the points on which they disagreed.

For here was the rub, as Mr. Laurence put it in December, 1849—Britain claimed a "protection of the Mosquito Indians." That protection involved boundary claims on Nicaragua, and, in pursuance of these, Britain (in 1848) had forcibly taken San Juan de Nicaragua, and changed its name to "Greytown." As Greytown is the Atlantic port which commands the way across, here were "obstacles" from Britain at once; and the Americans denied the claims of the Mosquitos—the right of Britain to "protect" them as she was doing—and the British right to Greytown. Such was the state of things when Sir Henry Bulwer went to New York. Mr. Laurence argued, that, since Britain had begun her connection with the Mosquito race, the whole face of the world had changed, and that, to meet the new times, she ought to modify her claims with regard to them.

Sir Henry (whose abilities are well known) saw the difficulty, and foresaw the dangers that have arisen. The American Company, by this time formed to get up a water communication between the oceans, had obtained, from Nicaragua, the necessary lakes and territory, and Nicaragua had likewise granted the use of the river San Juan, claimed for the Mosquitos by Britain! The affair was urgent. Sir Henry Bulwer made up his mind that the best plan was to found an agreement with the States about the canal, and to evade the discussion of the boundaries of Mosquito and Nicaragua altogether.

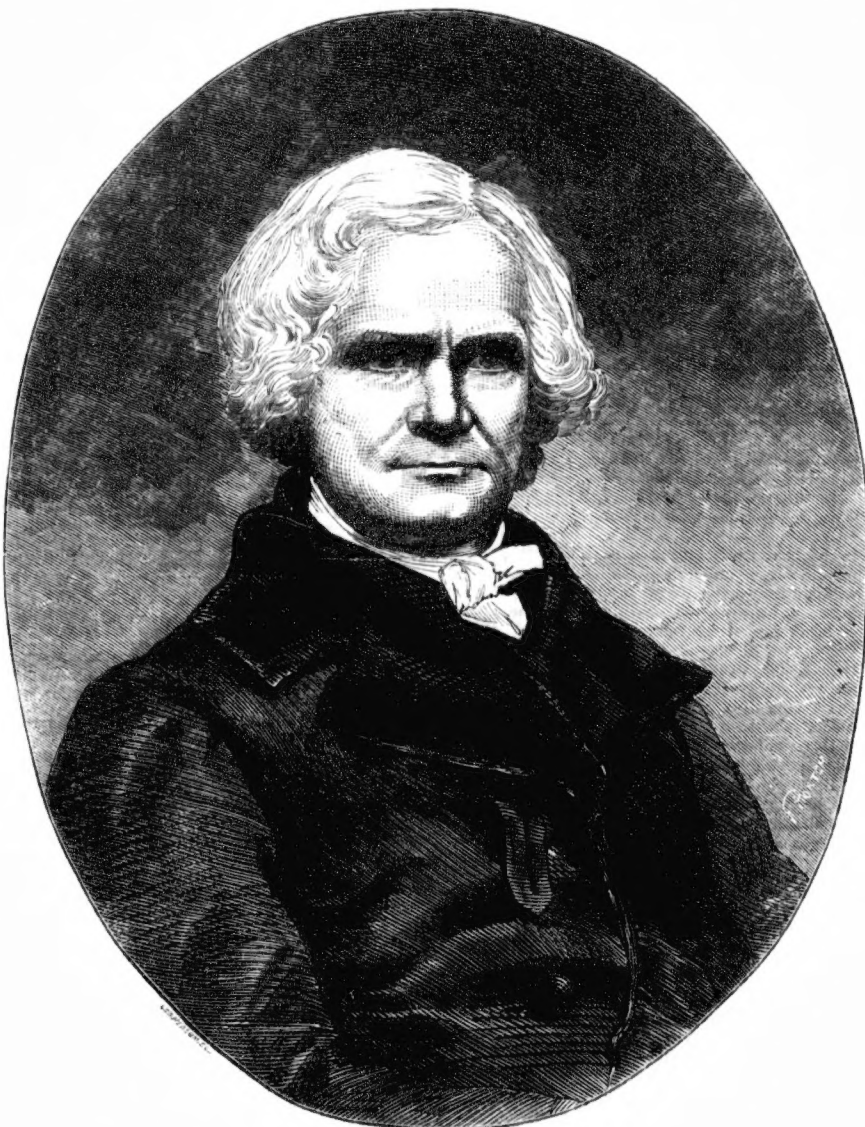
On this, as the leading idea, was based the Clayton-Bulwer treaty of Washington, 19th April, 1850. It was really an evasion of the worst points of controversy, and a kind of compromise. It protected the canal to be formed; it provided that neither England nor America should "occupy, fortify, colonise, or assume or exercise any dominion over Nicaragua, Costa Rica, the Mosquito coast, or any part of Central America." It, *pro tem.*, amounted to a settlement, and it protected the canal. But six years have proved long enough to show what a merely temporary arrangement it was. We are now at loggerheads about its meaning. The British Ministers contend that it left intact our right to "protect" the Mosquitos and other claims of ours to the islands of Ruatan, &c. "No," say the Americans; "it amounted to a total abandonment of all interference with Central America at all." "But we should have stated *that* had we meant it," reply the British. "You really did imply as much by renouncing

all exercise of dominion," is the rejoinder. "We do not exercise dominion," retort Clarendon and Co.; "we only protect our ancient friends, the Mosquitos." And so the controversy goes on through elaborate pages of the Blue-book before us. The Americans open the whole question of our relation to the Mosquitos, denying, *in limine*, that these savages have any possessory rights of the kind we attribute to them. They likewise produce good evidence, from geographical literature, showing that Ruatan has not been always considered British. The treaty of 1850 is plainly useless now. The Americans insist on taking it in a sense which our diplomatists will not admit, and it is really of no practical value as an agreement.

It was not long before the difficulties which it left unsettled showed themselves in an awkward event. Greytown being by Britain held for the Mosquitos (that is, Britain being *de facto* rulers of it), some harbour dues were levied there. The American Company's steamer *Prometheus* had not paid these one day in November, 1851, and was under weigh to leave the harbour for New York with 500 passengers, when the commander of H.M. brig *Esperanza* fired a shot across her bows, stopped her, and compelled her to pay. This figured all over the Union as a "British outrage;" and, though our Government repudiated the act, of course caused much ill-feeling. Next year we find Lord Granville extremely anxious to make some arrangement for the settlement of Greytown—which all this time, be it observed, was, by the force of events (which *will not* wait for diplomatists), being made more and more American in population and character. But the wretched feuds between Nicaragua and Costa Rica, and the impossibility of getting them to agree about their mutual rights—the difficulty of arranging a future for the Mosquitos, and so on—were in the way. It remained unsettled. Greytown was every day receiving fresh American citizens (as Californian traffic increased), and it became a serious question how life and property were to be preserved there. After Lord Granville came Lord Malmesbury, and then Lord John Russell; and still the Central American question remained unsettled. So that we really cannot wonder that, at last, quiet means having so often failed, violent ones should have been tried. In plain English, the neglect of regular Governments has left those countries exposed to the irregular action of Filibusters like Walker, because in the long run, *action*, even of the worst kind, will beat *talk*. We may thank ourselves that the dispute has now reached the serious dimensions which it has; and we may thank the present Government, that, just as an arrangement is *imperative*, they should have actually made it three times more difficult, by superadding the ill-feeling of the "enlistment row."



HON. JAMES BUCHANAN, THE LATE UNITED STATES MINISTER IN ENGLAND.
FROM A DAGUERROTYPE BY MAYALL.



HON. G. M. DALLAS, THE UNITED STATES MINISTER IN ENGLAND.
(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MAYALL.)

The practical way for the English people to go to work is to look at the facts of the case, and decide what support they will give Government in the matter of all the claims advanced in this correspondence. As for Walker, we do not see what is to be done. These Central American States are wretched little republics, inhabited by degenerate Spaniards, and torn to pieces by ignoble factions. As such, they are the natural prey of buccanniers, and "all the king's horses and all the king's men" cannot avert their doom. The States having recognised Walker's government in Nicaragua, the next step will be the annexation of that State; and, in fact, we are now face to face with them on the continent of Central America, and must at once decide what we mean to stick to there. Greytown cannot remain as it is, nor our mutual relations as they are, without constant danger of naval collision in that sea.

We shall not enter just now into all the detailed claims disputed between the countries. The "protection" of the Mosquito Indians is the most delicate point, because it involves our position in Greytown, and brings us into controversy with Nicaragua. The Yankees hate that "protection" as a pretext; indeed, it has an ugly look. We do not protect these degraded barbarians in the true sense, for they rot away, like other barbarians, under our friendship. But in the cause of their dubious claims to territory we have committed acts of force, and these acts have had the awkward effect of practically investing us with the power of controlling the American transit from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Is this a power which the English people is prepared, if need be, to vindicate to itself by force? We do not think so—if it can be honourably avoided. Our leading notion is, that events are clearly marking out the Yankees as the natural rulers of those parts of the world, and that, in the face of such a tendency, we may make concessions with honour. The latest form which the dispute has assumed—its present technical form—is a controversy on the import of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, which is thought, in America, to have amounted to a surrender of our Central American claims. On this question let us have diplomatic arbitration, if possible. But we warn our readers not to fancy that, if the arbitration be in our favour, the real Central American dangers will be for ever at an end. They are the results of circumstances, we fear, beyond this kind of control—of the fact, that we are so placed in regard to America on that continent, that collision is unavoidable. Nay, we believe that, if war ensued, and we compelled the United States to make our terms there—that then the difficulty would only be put off, and that a fresh war (undertaken by America under better circumstances than now) would be inevitable by and by.

We have not shrunk from advocating a war policy at proper times, but in this controversy we are determinedly pacific—not from any mean fear, but simply because we see no British interests under the circumstances which demand such a contention. We hope to see wise and prompt negotiations, in a spirit of conciliation and concession, and that the bitterness which has been lately added to the dispute will vanish without worse effects, as Pierce retires from office, and Palmerston—with both Tories and Radicals against him—draws near the time when he has to face a dissolution. Such is our wish, and such also is our expectation. That we may none of us be disappointed, let our thoughts and talk on the subject be moderate and reasonable.

THE LATE AND PRESENT AMERICAN AMBASSADORS.

WHEN matters go smoothly between England and America, the public certainly do not manifest much interest in those plain, decorous individuals who represent the great Transatlantic Republic at the Court of St. James's. Even when an American minister makes some remarkable speech at a Lord Mayor's banquet, or grumbles about being excluded from state ceremonies because it is against his political creed to wear a court dress, like other people exercising ambassadorial functions, the effect produced is not very overwhelming. But at a time like this, when we are in peril of a collision with the country which these men represent, the matter assumes a very different aspect; and we doubt not the accompanying portraits will be welcome to our readers.

HON. JAMES BUCHANAN.

One of the most interesting facts stated in the latest news from America is the nomination, by the Democratic Convention at Cincinnati, of the Hon. James Buchanan, formerly ambassador to this country, as President of the United States. Mr. J. C. Breckinridge has been nominated Vice-President by the same influential body.

Of the many able representatives the American Government has had in London, few have surpassed Mr. Buchanan in the qualities of statesman or diplomatist. Like most distinguished Americans, he owes his position entirely to his own talents; and how he rose will perhaps be gathered from a brief sketch of his career.

The father of Mr. Buchanan was an Irishman, who emigrated from his native Donegal, some eighty years ago, and settled in Pennsylvania. There, in the country of Franklin, the subject of our portrait first saw the light, on the 23rd of April, 1791. Having been regularly educated at Dickinson College, Mr. Buchanan adopted the law as a profession, and, in 1812, was admitted to practise at the American bar. The young lawyer, however, cherished a hereditary predilection for politics; and, in his twenty-fourth year, he had the gratification of being ushered into public life as a member of the Legislature of Pennsylvania. From that period, he steadily and rapidly advanced in reputation.

After having served in the Legislature of his native State for two sessions, Mr. Buchanan declined re-election; but in 1820 he had the good fortune to be returned to the popular branch of the Congress. He sat in the House of Representatives till March, 1831, when he retired into private life. From this obscurity he was enticed by General Jackson, within a few months, to undertake a mission to the Court of St. Petersburg; and upon his return from Russia, in 1834, he had the distinction of being elected a member of the Senate. His career in that capacity was so marked and satisfactory to the State he represented, that he was twice re-elected, and served as senator until the 4th of March, 1845, when he was appointed Secretary of State. In this capacity Mr. Buchanan served until the 4th of March, 1849, and, at its close, retired into private life for a few years. The next appointment he accepted was that of Minister to this country, in April, 1853, a post which, as our readers are aware, he filled till within the last few months.

When he returned to America, and was welcomed with enthusiasm by the merchants of Philadelphia, Mr. Buchanan thus expressed the sentiments he entertains with regard to a war:—

"It is hardly proper for me to speak of the diplomatic business in which I have been engaged on the other side of the Atlantic; but I have been asked repeatedly—is there danger of war? I think not. But it is simply because I believe our country to be so clearly and decidedly in the right on the questions involved between the two countries, that the British people never will consent to irritate them into a dangerous condition for both parties. Our commerce now covers every ocean; our mercantile marine is the largest in the world. We have the greatest interests of any nation on earth in preserving peace. We ought to cultivate peace with all nations. But there is an interest superior to all these considerations, and that is our national honour. If war should ensue—I feel, however, no apprehension of danger at the present moment—if the national honour of this people should ever be insulted by any government upon the face of the earth—I know that the merchants themselves, who would have the greatest sacrifices to make, would stand by the country at the expense of everything human."

Mr. Buchanan is, we believe, a man of considerable scholarship and sound judgment. His keen powers of analysis, and his thorough knowledge of character, have enabled him to fulfil the duties of various offices with extraordinary facility and success. He has been exposed to less censure

than usually falls to the lot of prominent political personages; and by all parties he is respected in private and domestic circles, as a man of uniform kindness, gentlemanly bearing, and frank republicanism.

HON. G. M. DALLAS.

One day, when Mr. Buchanan was on the eve of departure, there landed on the quay at Liverpool, from one of the gigantic steamers ever and anon arriving at that busy gateway of our commerce, from the other side of the Atlantic, a personage of sixty-four or thereabouts, whose presence excited considerable interest. Doubtless, this stranger appeared a plain, unassuming enough individual, with white hair, a form of the middle height, an erect carriage, and an affable manner. But then it became known that he was the new Minister accredited by the United States of America to the Court of St. James's, and everybody began to regard him with curiosity, and to wonder whether he brought in his pocket instructions so pacific, respecting the pending controversy, as would, in case of their being met in the same spirit by Lord Palmerston and his colleagues, have the effect of speedily settling the differences that have unhappily arisen between the two countries.

George Mifflin Dallas was, we learn, born at Philadelphia on the 10th of July, 1792; and having received his early education in that place, graduated with high honours at Princeton College in 1810. His father, it seems, had been district-attorney of Pennsylvania, under Jefferson, and, at a later period, secretary of the treasury, under Madison; and Dallas the younger, having commenced the study of law in his father's office, was in due time admitted to the American bar.

Mr. Dallas, having reached this stage of his career, and being no doubt desirous to see something of the world, accompanied Mr. Gallatin to Russia as private secretary, when that gentleman was member of a commission appointed to negotiate a peace under the mediation of the Czar Alexander. Mr. Dallas then took the opportunity of making himself acquainted with European countries, and visited France, England, Holland, and the Netherlands. Returning to the United States, he commenced practising as a lawyer. In 1817, he was nominated deputy of the Attorney-General of Philadelphia; and in 1829, having meantime been elected Mayor of Philadelphia, he was appointed to the office of district attorney, which, as we have stated, his father had held.

Mr. Dallas, having early taken a deep interest in politics, soon rendered himself one of the leading men among the Democratic party in his native state; and in 1831, having been elected to fill a vacancy which occurred in the representation of Pennsylvania in the Senate of the United States, he began to take a prominent part in the stormy debates of which that assembly was the scene. On the expiration of his term in 1833, he declined re-election, and resumed the pursuit of his professional avocations.

A year or two passed over; and in 1837, Mr. Dallas was accredited as American Ambassador at St. Petersburg, and continued to occupy that distinguished position till 1839, when he returned home, and once more devoted himself to his professional pursuits. However, in 1844, he was again tempted from his law books on being elected Vice-President of the United States, an office which he continued to fill till the elevation of Mr. Fillmore to the presidency.

Since the arrival of Mr. Dallas in this country as American Ambassador, he has exercised his functions in such a manner as to inspire our public men with respect, and the Government of the United States with such confidence in his discretion, that he has been fully empowered to adjust and settle the Central American question. Such being the case, Lord John Russell, on Monday evening, bore witness to his qualifications for the task. "It," said the Noble Lord, "negotiations are to be carried on, I cannot think they could be better carried on than by Mr. Dallas, who is a gentleman universally respected, and who, during his short time here, has gained the goodwill of all classes of people."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE news from France is almost entirely confined to two topics—the inundations and the baptismal fêtes—both of which subjects will be found treated at length in another part of our paper.

Sir W. F. Williams, on whom, it will be remembered, the Emperor of the French has conferred the Cross of Commander of the Legion of Honour for his brilliant defence of Kars, was presented to his Majesty on Friday week by Lord Cowley.

The reports that have been current lately as to an intention on the part of the Government to effect a new loan have been officially denied.

M. de Persigny has been named Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, and M. de Pietri, Prefect of Police, Grand Officer of the same.

SPAIN.

THE preparations which have been going on for the projected naval expedition against Mexico are likely to cease. The Spanish government has accepted the mediation of France in the matter.

The Cortes have authorised the marriage of the Infanta Amelia with Prince Adalbert of Bavaria.

Some disorder broke out on Tuesday week, in the Plaza dos Toros, but it was immediately suppressed.

PORTUGAL.

THE Saldanha administration has fallen; and a provisional Cabinet formed. It appears that the late Ministry, seeing the impossibility of carrying their financial schemes through the Chamber of Peers, proposed to the King the creation of a new batch of Peers, to enable them to carry through those measures. The King resolved against such an expedient, and the ministry broke down.

AUSTRIA.

SEVERAL members of the most distinguished families of Bohemia are endeavouring to come to an understanding on an address to be presented to the Emperor. It is intended to demand the re-establishment of the States of the Kingdom, with various modifications in conformity with the spirit of the age, and of a nature to give the country a more genuine representation than that offered by the purely consultative assemblies which it is proposed to establish in the various provinces of the Austrian empire.

Prince Gortschakoff is receiving every mark of attention and distinction from the Austrian nobility at Vienna. His palace has been besieged daily with aristocratic visitors, eager to be thought his admirers and supporters.

The proscription of the Russian journal *Le Nord* in the Austrian states is not, after all, a *fait accompli*, but the question has been discussed in council.

The cholera has again appeared in the western and south-western suburbs of Vienna, where the disease was very prevalent this time last year.

PRUSSIA.

COUNT WALEWSKI has received the insignia of the Order of the Black Eagle.

Generals Gortschakoff, Rudiger, and Offenberg have arrived at Berlin from St. Petersburg. The Empress left on Saturday, and on Monday the King went to Stuttgart.

RUSSIA.

A DECREE published at St. Petersburg, announces that in order to secure the proper development of the Russian navy, consistently with a pacific administration, the building and arming of the fleet, and of the coast defences, are henceforth placed under the immediate command of the Governor-General of East Siberia.

The Russian Government intends to make Odessa a free port, and to permit every description of merchandise to be imported there free of duty. The Emperor has placed the corps of Cossacks of Tchernomorie under the command of General Mouravieff, to whom he has at the same time confided the administration of that country.

Notwithstanding the universal destitution and poverty of Finland, occasioned by the war, the Governor-General Berg has just extracted from the Finnish treasury the sum of 25,000 silver roubles, to pay for the furniture of his palace.

M. Tourkull, the Minister directing the affairs of Poland, has died. Golenischeff-Koutousoff, a Pole by birth, has been appointed to succeed him.

ITALY.

THE Sardinian Government has caused confidential verbal explanations to be made to the Cabinets of the great Powers, in answer to the representations contained in the Austrian circular despatch addressed to the representatives of Austria in Italy. The tenor of these explanations is intended to repudiate the imputation that Sardinia's policy in any way favours revolutionary tendencies; but Sardinia is in the position of leader of the national movement—the only movement that has any future open to it in Italy; and, by accepting this leadership, Sardinia has it in her power to suppress all revolutionary elements in Italy. This course, moreover, has been imposed upon her by the bearing of Austria towards her; and she would not calmly resign herself to be overruled into submission by Austria, she had no other alternative. On the other hand, it was Austria that was unremittent in exciting disaffection in those portions of Northern Italy not yet occupied by her troops, for the double purpose of justifying her present occupations, and paving the way for a future extension of them.

The city of Genoa gave an entertainment to the battalions, amounting to 5,000 men, which had returned from the Crimea, at which General Della Marmora and his staff were participants.

The distribution of the Queen of England's medals to the Sardinian troops passed off with great success. There was an immense concourse of spectators from all parts of Italy.

On the occasion of the distribution of the Sardinian medals, on the 15th, the King addressed to the soldiers a speech, of which the following is a passage:—"You have worthily responded to my expectations, as well as to the hopes of the country; and you have justified the confidence of the Allied Powers, who offer to you to-day a solemn acknowledgment of their high opinion. I now receive back your victorious standards, certain that if the interest and the honour of the country oblige me to restore them to you, you will ever and everywhere cover them with fresh glory." These words were hailed with enthusiastic acclamations.

His Eminence Cardinal Antonelli, and his Holiness the Pope, responding to the verbal remonstrances of Count de Rayneval, the French Ambassador, relative to the intention of his Government to withdraw the army of occupation from Rome, said that they were of opinion that the Pontifical Government was sufficiently strong to meet any eventuality that might arise!

Monsieur Grassellini, the right hand of Cardinal Antonelli in the reactionary intrigues at Rome in 1849, is to be elected to the cardinalate in the next consistory.

The Austrians are actively preparing for war in Italy. At Mantua, Milan, Verona, and Pavia, the fortifications are being pushed on with great activity.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

THE Turkish troops are arriving at Constantinople in great numbers from the Crimea and other points. The Turkish Contingent is also expected shortly to evacuate Kertch, and some detachments have already arrived. Various and conflicting rumours are afloat respecting the final destination of this force. A considerable portion of it is to be disbanded, for certain, but some of the regiments are likely to be retained in the Sultan's service.

The anniversary of her Majesty's birthday was celebrated by a grand banquet at the Palace of the British Embassy. The party, at nightfall, exhibited a most animated appearance, the Queen and other war ships were gaily decked and illuminated, and their guns responded to a rocket let off from the British Palace, announcing that the health of her most gracious Majesty was being drunk.

The news of the destruction of the fortifications at Reni, Ismail, and Kars, has produced a great sensation at Constantinople.

A treaty with Greece relative to the repression of brigandage has been ratified.

There was a talk of a military occupation of Turkey; the English fleet was expected.

The Bairam was celebrated with great pomp. The Sultan has held a review of 30,000 men.

The rumour that Lord Redcliffe is about to quit Constantinople on leave of absence, is revived.

The Bessarabian frontier commission recommenced business on the first of the month. The temporary interruption was caused by the refusal of the Russian Commissary to act with Muchlia Pacha (Gregory Stourdza), one of the representatives of the Porte. As the Divan refused to recall Prince Stourdza, the Russian Commissary demanded instructions from his government, and he was told that he was to make no further difficulties.

Letters from the Crimea say that the Tartars were arriving at Balaklava in great numbers. The English evacuation was going on slowly. Trade at Balaklava is in a deplorable state, and many forced sales under executions have taken place. A good deal of merchandise is to be re-shipped for France and Egypt.

Lord Gough has arrived in the Crimea, and has invested General Pelissier and the French and English Generals with the Order of the Bath.

Telegraphic orders from London had been received at Constantinople, that all the vessels in port should proceed at once to the Crimea to bring away troops, on account of the extraordinary heat.

A new line of French steamers is established between Constantinople and Galatz.

AMERICA.

WE have had two arrivals from America since our last number went to press—by one of them, the *Canada*, Mr. Crampton arrived; as well as a despatch announcing his dismissal, and the resolutions of the American Cabinet on the question. The conciliatory spirit of Lord Clarendon is recognised, the unwillingness of our Government to offer intentional affront is courteously accredited, and the necessity of two such nations living in peace and amity is duly admitted. The British Government, Mr. May allows, has erred excusably, if it has erred at all, and the American Government is satisfied with our explanations; but, says Mr. May, in effect, Mr. Crampton's conduct has been marked with indecorum, if not dishonesty; he had become personally offensive to the Cabinet of the United States; his presence would be an obstacle to any good understanding for the future; and on these purely personal grounds he is dismissed. At the same time, Mr. Dallas is empowered to settle the disputes relating to Central America with our Government, or to refer the question to arbitrators if agreement should be impracticable. The despatch, therefore, narrowed the question down to a single point—the dismissal of Mr. Crampton; and that the British Cabinet have resolved to acquiesce in.

The war with Costa Rica is at an end, and the remnant of the Costa Rican army has evacuated Nicaragua and gone home, dispirited, and in a sick and enfeebled condition. On the 26th April, six hours after the rear guard of General Mora's army marched out of Virgin Bay, General Walker entered the town at the head of a detachment of troops, and found there a letter from the commander of the Costa Rican troops, commending to his care a number of sick and wounded soldiers, who would, he said, when convalescent, be exchanged for American prisoners in his hands. General Walker and his troops are in excellent health and spirits. He has stationed detachments of his army at Virgin Bay and San Juan. The transit route is again free, and there was no British blockade. Indeed, Captain Tarleton, of the British frigate *Eurydice*, informed the American Minister that he had no instructions to interpose any interruption to the landing of passengers or munitions of war.

The Presidential election in Nicaragua had been conducted in an orderly and peaceable manner, and terminated in the return of Patricio Rivas, the Provisional President.

Fever prevailed at Granada, and Captain Walker, the youngest brother of the General, had died.

The Spanish squadron sailed from Havannah for Vera Cruz on the 25th ult. Much excitement was caused at Havannah in consequence, as it was suspected that the demonstration was in some way connected with the affairs of Central America. An agent has been sent to Spain in order to submit to the home Government the necessity of immediate action against General Walker as a means of preserving Cuba for the Queen.

The French ship-of-war *Penelope* has left for San Juan, and a commissioner has been despatched to confer with the Costa Ricans.

Kansas news states that eight pro-slavery men were killed on Potawatamie Creek by the Abolitionists.

BAPTISM OF NAPOLEON'S HEIR.

A salute of artillery fired early on the morning of Saturday, the 11th, to announce to the inhabitants of Paris that the day had arrived for celebrating the baptism of the Prince Imperial, with all the formalities which Providence granted a son to him who made the name of Napoleon to be famous. The ceremony, which was to take place at the Cathedral of Notre Dame, was announced, follow in every particular which, in June 1811, was observed in the case of the illustrious King of Rome.

The curiosity, the interest, the excitement created by the prospect of the spectacle were universal. By mid-day, all Paris was a scene of bustle and gaiety. The Grand Hôtel du Louvre and all the houses along the boulevards were decked out with flags and streamers. The weather, indeed, was much more fitting than could have been wished; occasionally a dark cloud would pass, and then the sun would break forth with intolerable heat. Nevertheless, it appeared as if the whole of the poorer population had deserted their houses, and taken up positions in various parts of the city. Those of course who had the power made themselves comfortable, and the windows and balconies of the Rue de Rivoli and of the approach to Notre Dame were filled with spectators. At the same time the doors of Notre Dame were besieged by crowds of gentlemen in white cravats, and ladies arrayed in full evening dress. All the avenues leading to the cathedral were occupied by the Imperial Guard.

THE PROCESSION.

About five o'clock—the Cardinal Legate having left previously—the Emperor and Empress of the French issued from the Tuilleries, and amid the enthusiastic cheers of the crowd, proceeded to Notre Dame—the National Guard keeping the road on the right, and the troops of the line on the left. The cortege consisted of the carriages of the Princes Mathilde, Prince Napoleon, and Prince Jerome; then eight carriages with six horses, in six of which were the high functionaries of the court; in the seventh, the Princess Mathilde and the Duchess of Hamilton; and in the eighth, the Grand Duchess of Baden, Prince Jerome, Prince Napoleon, and Prince Oscar of Sweden. Then came the Empress's carriage, which conveyed the Prince Imperial, the gouvernante of the children of France, two sub-gouvernantes, and the nurse, the right window being guarded by Marshal Canrobert, and the left by Marshal Bosquet. Lastly came the Emperor's magnificent state carriage, drawn by eight horses, in which were the Emperor and the Empress.

THE CATHEDRAL.

A porch was erected in front of the principal entrance to Notre Dame for the arrival and departure of the carriages, and two wings in the form of tents covered the two side gates. On the square of the *parris* stood two high masts carrying banners with the armorial bearings of the Empire. Two other masts, with similar colours, were placed at the entrance of the Rue d'Arcole, and two large banners floated on the top of the towers. The square was sanded and strewn over with flowers and foliage. The interior presented a most animated and picturesque scene. On either side of the grand nave, and between the main columns, decorated with crimson and gold drapery, a series of seats were erected, also hung with crimson velvet and gold decorations. The light fell through windows expressly coloured by some improved process, so as to represent the stained glass in which the metropolitan cathedral has been wanting. Everything that art inspired by zeal could do was set at work to give Notre Dame the aspect of a church of the thirteenth century. The roof was painted blue, with stars according to the habit of that age. In the centre of the transept rose a platform, six steps above the pavement of the church, closed by a railing, with an opening on the side of the nave. On that stage were placed the altar, three steps higher, at the entrance of the sanctuary; the throne of the Emperor and Empress, three steps higher, above the altar; the baptismal fonts, one step higher, between the altar and the throne; the throne of the Cardinal Legate *a l'extreme*, two steps higher, at the entrance of the sanctuary, facing the altar and throne of the Emperors, with seats on each side for two canons of Notre Dame, who assisted his Eminence and the Prelates attached to the legation. In the centre of the sanctuary, behind the throne of the Cardinal Legate, were seats for the archbishops and bishops invited to the ceremony. Seventy-five prelates sat there in their mitres and full canonicals.

ARRIVAL OF THE IMPERIAL FAMILY.

On his arrival at Notre Dame the Cardinal Legate was received by the Archbishop of Paris at the head of his Chapter, and conducted to his throne, and, at length, a salute announced the approach of the Imperial cortege. The little Prince, the hero of the occasion, wearing a rich mantle lined with ermine, was carried in by Madame Bruat. This very good-looking and somewhat youthful lady, widow of the late Gallant Admiral, fearing the effect of the draft of air, drew up the skirt of her robe and fairly wrapped her little charge in it, a feat which showed her tenderness and good sense. The Prince sat boldly up in her arms, and looked about with a pair of large expressive dark eyes, which caused him to be declared a very fine promising hero for his age. The Emperor and the Empress immediately followed; the former wearing the dress of a General of Division, with various orders; the latter wearing a light blue silk under a cloud of gauze and lace; the train was borne by pages, and on her head was a crown, the centre of which was a prodigious diamond—a koh-i-noor, a mountain of light, the Regent, in fact—throwing out not rays, but flakes of lambeity. The Princesses Mathilde, Murat, and Stephanie of Baden also wore trains borne by pages; and as the procession moved up, accompanied by the music of a powerful orchestra, and everyone stood up, the whole scene became particularly animated. Their Majesties took their seats before the altar, and at this moment the voice of the infant was distinctly heard, as if he sought to announce his presence—an event which appeared to create some merriment amongst the crowd.

THE CEREMONY.

The Cardinal Legate, descending from his throne, stood before the altar, and chanted the *Veni Creator*, which was executed by a full orchestra. Meanwhile the ladies bearing the christen, &c., advanced towards the *prie-dieu*, and proceeded to deposit the christen, ewer, napkin, &c., on the credence tables near the altar. At the conclusion of the *Veni Creator*, the Master and Assistant of Ceremonies bowed before the altar, and then to their Majesties, and advanced towards the Cardinal Legate, who went to the entrance of the sanctuary, and after performing the rite of the Catechumens, emulated the infant to the font, and the hair to the throne was sprinkled with the holy water. The Emperor and Empress afterwards signed the baptismal register, first witnessed by the Envoy of the Pope. Prince Oscar of Sweden then attached his signature, followed by Prince Napoleon, and other persons whose testations Court etiquette demands on such occasions. The Emperor then, in imitation of the first Napoleon on a similar occasion, took the infant and held it up to the multitude amid the *vivats* of all present.

DEPARTURE OF THE IMPERIAL FAMILY.

The baptismal ceremony being concluded, Madame Bruat placed the Prince in the arms of the Empress, while an Assistant Master of the Ceremonies advanced to the middle of the choir and cried aloud three times "*Vive le Prince Imperial!*"—the Empress standing all the time and holding the Prince up in her arms. The *vival* was executed by a full orchestra. Then the Governor received the infant from the hands of the Empress, and conducted him to the chamber prepared in a chapel of the choir. He was taken thence to the sanctuary, and lastly to the Palace of the Tuilleries, with his cortege, consisting of three court carriages, preceded by a squadron of Guides, and followed by a squadron of the Cuirassiers of the Guard.

When the Imperial Infant left, the Cardinal Legate chanted the *Te Deum*, which was executed by the orchestra, as well as the *Domine Salvemur*. The pontifical benediction was then bestowed in the most solemn manner by the Cardinal Legate, the Emperor and Empress kneeling at the *prie-dieu*.

The Grand Master of Ceremonies then intimated the conclusion of the ceremony, and the Archbishop of Paris, preceded by the Metropolitan Chapter, conducted the Emperor and Empress to the gate of the church. Their Majesties thence proceeded by the Pont d'Arcole to the Hôtel de Ville to partake of the banquet offered them by the city of Paris.

THE BANQUET.

The banquet took place in the Galerie de Fêtes, the whole of which was occupied with tables laid out in the most gorgeous style. That occupied by

the Imperial party was placed exactly in the centre, at the part leading from the Salle de Crayons. Everything at the Imperial table was served to the guests on silver, and the dessert on a splendid new service of silver gilt. The other tables were occupied simultaneously with the Imperial one, and 500 persons were present at this banquet.

During the dinner the Emperor and Empress conversed frequently with the high personages near them; the Empress addressing the Legate in a very animated manner. At the conclusion of the repast they went into the Salle des Crayons, where they walked about for some time. The Imperial party then withdrew to a *salon* prepared for their reception, took coffee, and in about half an hour entered the Salle du Trône, where chairs of state had been placed. At eleven o'clock they returned to the Tuilleries.

REJOICINGS.

Although the general illuminations were appointed for the following day, yet on Saturday evening not only was the Hôtel de Ville splendidly lighted up, but all the public edifices, and a great many private houses. Before the Bourse was reared a sort of monument, in coloured lamps, inscribed to the Imperial Prince, and there shone out the words "Security," "Confidence," "Credit," "Prosperity."

SECOND DAY OF THE BAPTISMAL FÊTES.

Paris, during Sunday, was lighted up with brilliant sunshine, and the rejoicings came off with unprecedented success. The illuminations in the Champs Elysées were elegantly arranged, and the fireworks splendid. The illuminations were more general than on the previous evening. In the Faubourg St. Honoré the majority of private houses sported lamps. In the new Rue de Rivoli the gas company had formed along the first floor balconies an unbroken line of light a mile long. This was the greatest novelty of the night. The tower of St. Jacques la Boucherie was lighted up even more brilliantly than before. So were Notre Dame and the Pantheon. The sight of the quays from the bridges was beautiful in the extreme. The bathing establishments on the river were profusely decorated with lamps and lanterns of various forms, sizes, and colours. The streets were crowded till long after midnight, and everybody appeared to enjoy themselves thoroughly.

GRAND BALL AT THE HOTEL DE VILLE.

The baptismal fêtes were closed on Monday night by a grand ball, at which the Emperor, the Empress, and other distinguished personages were present. Just about four o'clock, when the greater part of the company had left, a few drops of rain fell, as if as a signal that the fêtes, which have been signally favoured by the weather, were over.

The Prefect of the Seine, on the occasion of the baptism of the Prince Imperial, presented a bag of bouillons to each of the 50,000 children attending the primary schools of Paris; and medals to commemorate the baptism of the Prince Imperial have, by order of the Emperor, been distributed to all the children of the lycées, colleges, primary schools, *salles d'asile*, &c., and to all the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the Army of Paris. These medals, 120,000 in number, are of silver, and on the model of pieces of 50c., and they bear on one side the effigies of the Emperor and the Empress, and on the other that of the Prince Imperial, with the date of June 14, 1856.

In consequence of the determination of the Emperor and Empress to stand sponsors to all children born on the same day as the Prince Imperial, more than 3,600 applications have reached the Minister of the Emperor's household. Several mayors have made known that families have delayed the baptism of their children until the day of the baptism of the Prince Imperial. These persons may choose whom they please to hold their children at the baptismal fonts. The mayors are to represent the Emperor.

It is our intention to illustrate the pages of our next number with representations of some of the striking scenes enacted in the course of the ceremony which we have described.

ARREST OF BRITISH SEAMEN AT PORTO D'ANZIO

The jealous surveillance habitually exercised by the Papal authorities stationed along the sea-coast, especially on the Mediterranean side, has been notably increased of late, in consequence of a fear entertained by the Government that some portion of the redoubtable Anglo-Italian Legion, or some of the Italian revolutionary emigrants, or both, should find their way to the hallowed shores of St. Peter's Patrimony. Ships in the offing are anxiously reconnoitred, and a suspicious sail immediately throws the garrison of each little port into a febrile commotion. This nervous state of agitation has just proved a source of inconvenience to some of our countrymen returning from the Crimea in the British transport ship *Lady Franklin*, 480 tons, of Liverpool, who were desirous of proceeding direct to England *via* France by one of the Mediterranean steamers which touched at Civita Vecchia, instead of performing the more circuitous voyage through the Straits of Gibraltar. The *Lady Franklin* arrived off Porto d'Anzio on the evening of the 5th inst., when Mr. Evans, part proprietor of the vessel, the mate, and three men, went on shore to make inquiries, but, finding that they had landed at Porto d'Anzio and not at Giannicchio, as they had expected, they were about to return to their vessel, when they were arrested by the custom-house soldiers for having landed without due authorisation, thereby infringing the police and sanitary regulations. The British vice-consul, M. d'Andrea, immediately despatched a report of the occurrence to the British consul at Rome, through whose prompt representation to the President of the Board of Health orders were forwarded on the following day for the release of the prisoners, who arrived at Rome on the 9th June, their ship having meanwhile sailed in search of safer and more hospitable shores elsewhere.

The sailors of the *Lady Franklin* were kept without food for eighteen hours, and underwent four days' incarceration.

THE ROYAL THAMES YACHT CLUB held their annual match on Saturday. The *Lalla Rookh*, *Wildfire*, *Vestal*, *Sappho*, and *Aquiline* were the competitors, coming in in the order in which they are here printed.

A TREATY OF CRIMINAL EXTRADITION has been signed between Holland and America, which is the first treaty of the kind that has ever been signed by the latter Power.

THE JODRELL INSURANCE CASE.—An important insurance case was decided at Westminster on Monday. An action was brought by Mr. Thomas Trulock against the Householders' and General Life Assurance Company for £1,000, on a policy of assurance on the life of the late Mr. Richard Jodrell. The decision, however, implicated the validity of several other claims on policies granted by various offices, and amounting to £14,000. The defendants pleaded, first, that the plaintiff had no interest in the assurance, and, secondly, fraud and misrepresentation in concealing the fact that Mr. Jodrell was of intemperate habits, and had laboured under insanity. The chief feature in this defence was, that the plaintiff, knowing that intemperance had a most dangerous effect on Mr. Jodrell's health, had encouraged his vices in every possible way. Witnesses were called in proof of this allegation. Furthermore, in answer to the queries of the assurance office, Mr. Jodrell said that he had never been under restraint, and that, except an illness he caught while shooting in the Highlands, he had had nothing the matter with him except what flesh was heir to; while Mr. Brail, who appeared to be mixed up in all these transactions, gave quite a glowing picture of his temperance, saying that he seldom drank more than two or three glasses of wine at a time, and always left the table at a very early hour. The plaintiff, on the other hand, said he had considerable interest in the life of the deceased; and that the defendants were informed that his life had been declined in the Kent Mutual Office, on the ground of intemperance; and yet knowing that, being a speculative office, they accepted the insurance on his undertaking to pay £1 additional premium required for a person fourteen years older. It appeared, further, that Mr. Jodrell got into pecuniary difficulties, and the parties who had advanced him money had obtained a mortgage upon his life in several offices as a collateral security. Two policies were held by Mr. Jodrell himself; and being desirous to keep up the premium upon them, which amounted to £330 a year, he applied to the plaintiff to advance money for the purpose, and the plaintiff consented to do so on receiving a proper bond. His bond was duly executed, and the plaintiff, as a kind of indemnity, obtained the policy of insurance on Mr. Jodrell's life, which was the subject matter of this action. The plaintiff denied that he ever heard of the insanity of the deceased. A plaintiff had paid only two half-yearly premiums before Mr. Jodrell's decease. After a lengthy examination, the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff. On Tuesday a second claim of Mr. Trulock's was tried. This was against the Prince of Wales Assurance Company, for the sum of £7,000. The defence and the evidence were the same as in the previous case, and the verdict was again for the plaintiff.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

FALL FROM A CLIFF.—A shocking accident occurred within a short distance of Hail, last week. Three boys had gone out together to collect gulls' eggs on the rocks near South stack Island. They ventured on the side of a steep rock overhanging the sea for this dangerous purpose, when the foot of one of them slipped, and the little fellow was hurled down the precipice into the sea below, and is supposed to have been instantly drowned. His body was not found for several days after.

POISONING.—In January last Mary Clarke, a widow with five children, went to her housekeeper to Mr. Johnson, a farmer, at Winkfield, an improver or ratcatcher, and asked him to procure some medicine for obtaining drink, because a doctor had told her, generally ensnared, and Johnson treated her very honestly. On the 28th he died, it is alleged, from poison (supposed to be copper, or vitriol mixed with sulphate of iron), and a coroner's jury has since returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against Clarke.

ADDRESS FROM MANCHESTER TO AMERICA.—An address has been unanimously signed at Manchester to the people of America, imploring them, as "friends and brethren," to restrain the warlike tendencies of the United States Government, and assuring them that the citizens of Manchester will, on their part, exert themselves to a similar effect on the Government of Britain. They say: "We believe that much of the dispute that now imperils the peace of the two countries has arisen in mistake, and not in design; and we further believe that a calm and quiet survey of the question will even yet lead to a satisfactory solution of every difficulty, and to the removal of every cause of contention and complaint. This, we are convinced, may best be done by submitting the whole case to the arbitration of some Power friendly to both parties; and, while such a course would avoid the havoc, the cost, and the disgrace of war, it would tend to make our union firmer than ever, and through our example, to exhibit the superiority of constitutional liberty, and of the Christian faith, to the civilised world." An address, couched in similar terms, has been also addressed from the Liverpool Financial Association to the United States.

A MOVEMENT FOR AN ADVANCE OF WAGES has just commenced among the power-loom weavers and winders of Preston, and threatens to assume the character of another strike.

DWYBY MACRINFEY.—Last week, a terrible accident occurred at the B.I. first flour mill. A young woman, named Jane Adams, having several times expressed a desire to inspect the various operations, obtained permission to visit the mill. In the course of her visit, her clothes were caught in some machinery, through a sort of wooden railing which fenced it off. The railing gave way, breaking in several places; and her body coming thus into contact with the machinery, was literally smashed before any assistance could be rendered. On the inquest, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death"; though whether the fence was of sufficient strength to render it a fence at all in the eye of the law, we very much doubt.

OBITUARY.

HARTMANN, SIR JULIUS.—On the 8th inst., died at Hanover, aged 83, Sir Julius Hartmann, K.C.B. He was a General of Artillery, and well known in England on account of his long and intimate acquaintance with the late Duke of Wellington, whose good opinion he won by his distinguished services with the King's German Legion in the Peninsular War, of which Legion he was a Major on half-pay for nearly half a century. He had also held, we believe, for many years, an honorary post about the Court at Hanover. Only a few days before his death he was created a Baron of that Kingdom, as a special mark of distinction conferred upon him by the King; a mark the more valuable inasmuch as it is the only honour of the same rank that has been bestowed during the present reign.

THOMPSON, CAPTAIN.—On the 12th inst., in Pimlico, aged 26, died Capt. Henry Langbourne Thompson, C.B., one of the gallant defenders of Kars. He had landed at Hail in bad health scarcely a week previous to his death, which was occasioned by bronchitis. He was a son of the late Receiver-General of Crown Rents in the North, and educated at Eton. In 1845 he was appointed Esquire in the 68th Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry, and was wounded in the second Burmah War. Returning to England in 1854, with his arm still in a sling, he volunteered for service in the East, and proceeded to Constantinople and the Crimea, and thence to Erzeroum and Kars. His gallant conduct there won for him the Companionship of the Bath, together with promotion to the rank of Captain unattached. He was much beloved by Colonel Lake and Sir W. F. Williams.

SHREWSBURY, COUNTESS.—On the 4th inst., at Paris, after a few days' illness, died Maria Teresa, Countess of Shrewsbury. Her Ladyship was a daughter of the late William Talbot, Esq., of Castle Talbot, County of Wexford, by his first wife, Mary, daughter of Lawrence O'Toole, Esq., of Buxton, in the same county, whose ancestors some four or five hundred years ago were princes of the *Uther* parts of Ireland. In 1814, she married the late Earl of Shrewsbury, then Mr. John Talbot, and heir-presumptive to his uncle, the sixteenth Earl, whom he eventually succeeded in 1837. Lord Shrewsbury died suddenly, at Naples, in November, 1852, when his distant cousin, the present peer, became possessed of the premier Earldom of England. Lord Shrewsbury had two daughters, the Princesses Dora Pamphili, and the late Princess Borghese, who died in 1840. His only son died in infancy.

TALBOT, LADY V.—On the 8th inst., at Naples, after a lengthened illness, aged 25, died the Lady Victoria Susan Talbot, eldest daughter of Earl Talbot, of Ingestre, by the Lady Sarah Beresford, daughter of Henry, second Marquis of Waterford.

BRITISH SYMPATHY WITH FRENCH SUFFERING.

To our great satisfaction, the vast misfortune which has overtaken France, in the late floods, has provoked an active helpful sympathy in England. Meetings have been convened in London, Dublin, Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, and, indeed, all the great towns, at which the most generous feeling prevailed. At the City meeting, convened by the Lord Mayor, on Friday week, £5,000 was gathered in a few minutes, and at once transmitted to the Prefect of the Seine, as a first instalment. The Lord Mayor's list has since been graced with the name of her Majesty as a subscriber of a thousand pounds, and of Prince Albert for five hundred pounds. In other towns, the subscriptions have been very large; and it delights us to think how much misery may be alleviated by the entire sum. We may add that subscriptions have been opened in every part of Piedmont. The Pope sends 15,000*fr.*; the Sultan, 40,000*fr.*; Prince Oscar of Sweden has given 5,000*fr.*; Baron Sina, banker of Vienna, 25,000*fr.* The whole sum received from various sources amounted on the 17th to 1,591,588*fr.*

THE INUNDATIONS IN FRANCE.

In our little island, where hills are mountains, and thickets forests, and miles of so much importance, we can hardly comprehend the extent of the disaster which has recently overtaken France. The Holmfrith inundation was to us a tremendous fact—a vast misfortune; but the Holmfrith inundation is no more to be compared with the floods which have devastated the provinces of France, than Windermere with Lake Huron. Various versions are indeed yet given of the extent of territory inundated; by none is it estimated at less than 600, while by others it is computed at 1,200. In England it is difficult to realise the extent of damage which even the smaller figures involve; but suppose the sea which surrounds this island to have made an irruption on the coast of Devonshire, and to have swept in a broad current from that coast throughout the whole length and breadth of England, and we have a picture of what has occurred in France. So much for acres; but, again, nearly 40,000 human habitations (it is computed) have been either destroyed or so seriously damaged as to necessitate their re-construction; while a corresponding number of families have been suddenly reduced to the extremities of distress. The crops cultivated in the desolated valleys, which are among the most fertile in France, have been greatly injured; the agricultural implements of the peasantry are lost; in short, it is hardly possible to estimate the extent of the damage.

At all times, while the waters rose, they were a terror to all within their reach, as may be guessed from a glance at the illustrations in our present number. Imagine such a scene in an English town as that which our engraving represents as having occurred at Avignon! But sometimes the floods were rendered more terrible by breaking in upon some sleeping village in the night. This was especially the case when the dyke of the Tête d'Or, at Lyons, gave way. This disaster occurred at about an hour before dawn, to the afflict of the wretched inhabitants of the neighbouring villages, who were still in their beds. Cries of distress resounded from all sides, mingling with the sound of alarm guns, the tolling of the tocsin, the noise of talking houses. Many persons were surprised in their sleep, and could only save themselves, half-dressed, by wading through the water, leaving all their property to the mercy of the flood. Others were compelled to remain in their houses, and wait until assistance could be brought to them. The establishment of the *Petites Sœurs des Pauvres* was inundated, and it was found

train left on the line was reached by the waters, and the engine-driver and stoker, to escape being drowned, climbed on the top of the locomotive. Even then they had water up to their waists, and in this pitiable plight they remained until three in the morning, when they were rescued in a boat.

But numerous stories of "hair-breadth escapes," and some rather touching incidents, are related. Near Vichy, two children were surprised by the rise, whilst fishing on a little island in the Allier. They had only time to climb into a high tree when the island was covered. They remained in that terrible position from Thursday evening to Saturday morning, and the provisions they had taken with them were exhausted. No one dared to render them assistance, as to approach the spot was to encounter almost certain death. Three sailors from the Crimea, however, placed themselves in a boat, and with the father of the children set off for the island, and succeeded in rescuing the children.

In one house at Lyons, a whole family were so sound asleep that they did not hear the alarm given, and would have been drowned but for a dog, who ran to the bed of his master, and pulled off the clothes with his teeth. Scarcely had they got out of the house when it fell. Another of these faithful animals was seen near the same spot scratching with its paws, and uttering the most doleful cries. Its master had been buried beneath the ruins, and all attempts to remove the animal from the spot were vain.

The father of a family, residing in the Brotteaux, was driven from his house, having just time to save his wife and daughter. One he placed on an elevated spot, out of the reach of the water, and the second on a tree, and then himself climbed another. There they remained for several hours, watching each other anxiously, with a foaming torrent rushing along below them, and expecting every moment that one or the other would be carried away.

But we cannot multiply instances; and can only add a hope that the subscription lists now opened in nearly all the great towns of England, will bear a long list of goodly contributions, in succour of—how many?—some forty thousand families!

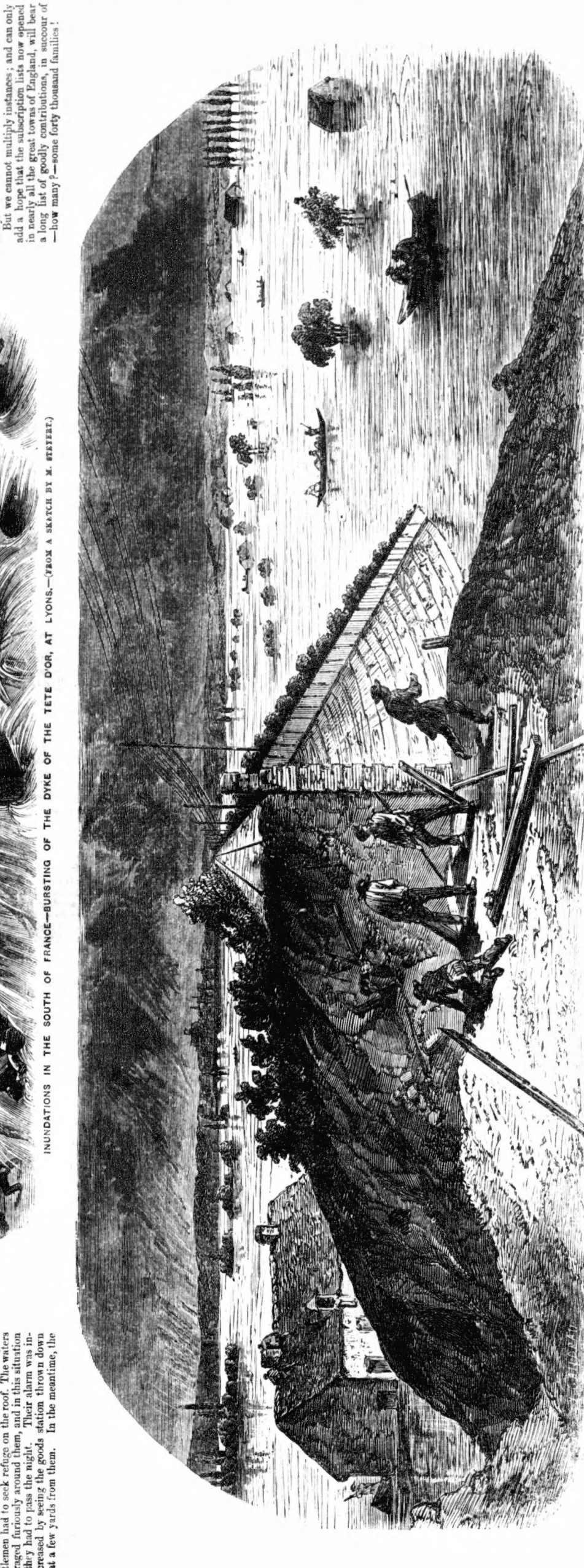
necessary to remove all its inmates to the Hotel Dieu in wagons. The directors of the Maison du Saint-Esprit brought out their children one by one on their backs, and the sick were laid on mattresses, and placed on rafts hastily made for the purpose, and thus carried to a place of safety. At the Brotteaux, several houses were washed down before the inhabitants could be got out. At Charpenne, a man, his wife, and their child were buried beneath the ruins of their house. A boat, with several persons who had been saved from a house, upset, and all were drowned. Many small houses, built of framework and brick, were washed away bodily from their foundations, and floated about with the current.

The insecurity of the dyke was known, and, at the time it gave way, a large number of men of the army of Lyons were engaged in its repair. It was at first reported that many of these men were drowned; but the rumour proved unfounded.

We give an illustration of the bursting of the dyke of the Tête d'Or, and also of the partial destruction of the bridge and railway between Guetin and Nevers. Touching railway accidents, we read the following incident in the "Journal du Loiret":—"M. de Lataille, principal inspector of the railway, hearing that the waters were menacing in the direction of Amboise, proceeded to that town. On arriving within a few hundred yards of the station, he found a number of men employed in strengthening the dyke of the Loire, which showed symptoms of yielding. He stopped his train, and went to give them some directions; but whilst he was speaking the dyke gave way, and the waters rushed through furiously. The situation was terrible. M. de Lataille and his two subordinates ran towards the station, and with difficulty succeeded in reaching it, so rapidly did the waters follow them. The inundation on reaching the station rose rapidly as high as the first storey, and the three gentlemen had to seek refuge on the roof. The waters raged furiously around them, and in this situation they had to pass the night. Their alarm was increased by seeing the goods station thrown down at a few yards from them. In the meantime, the

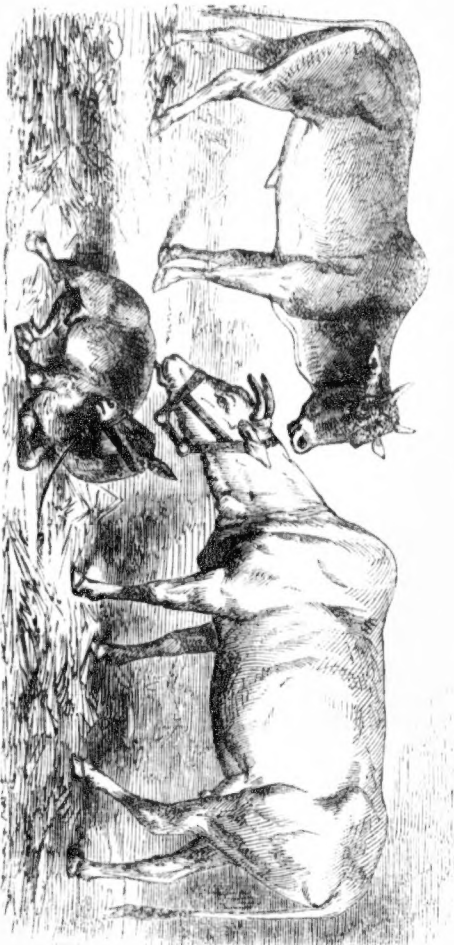
INUNDATIONS IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE—BURSTING OF THE DYKE OF THE TETE D'OR, AT LYONS.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. STIEBER.)

INUNDATIONS IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE—DESTRUCTION OF THE RAILWAY BRIDGE BETWEEN GUETIN AND NEVERS.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. HARRINGTON.)





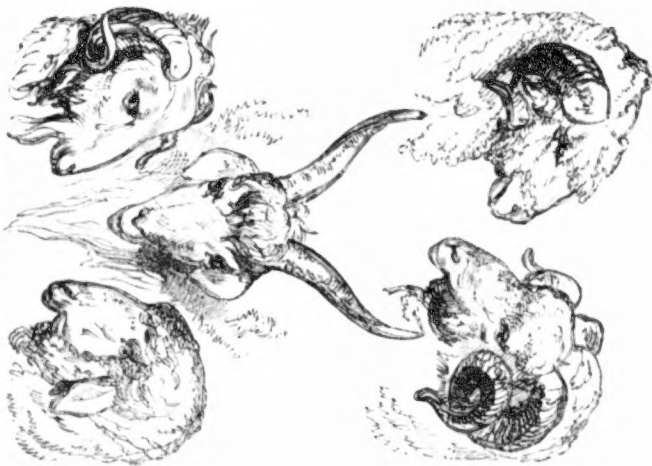
MERINO RAM FROM SAXONY.



MALE AND FEMALE ZEBUS.



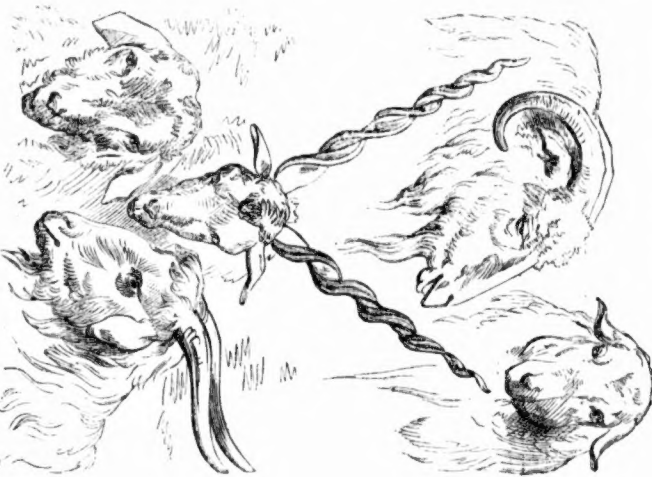
BLACK-FACED RAM FROM SCOTLAND.



MERINO AND CACHEMIRE GOATS AND SHEEP.



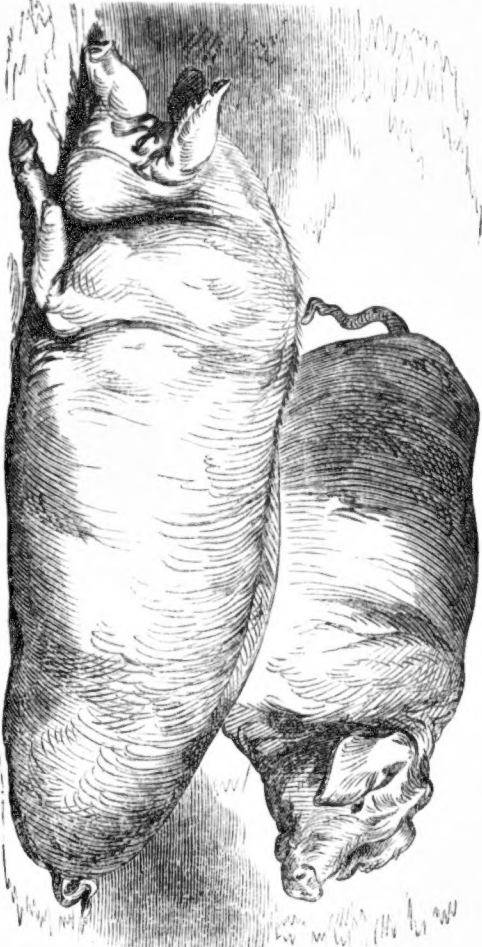
BANTAM, CEYLONESE, TURKISH AND COCHIN CHINA FOWLS, TRAPPIST PIGEON, ETC.



SCOTCH AND HUNGARIAN GOATS AND SHEEP.



VOLSTEAD COW (SAXONY).



WHITE YORKSHIRE COWS.
PARIS AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION 1856



WEST HIGHLAND COW (SCOTLAND).

PARIS AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION.

Few capable of forming an opinion on such a subject, will deny the advantages likely to be derived by the agriculture of France and of Europe from that grand exhibition which so lately delighted the Parisians, and which a competent authority pronounced to be "the finest thing of the kind ever assembled together." Where hardly a branch of agriculture was unrepresented, much new information must, of course, have been acquired; and but for the barrier presented by the difference of language, much more might have been taught and learned by those who came from various regions, in friendly rivalry to the banks of the Seine. As has been remarked, the wheat-grower of the Danube might have compared notes with the East Lothian farmer, the Cheshire dairyman with him of the Swiss mountains of Gruyère, the sheep-breeder of the Cotswolds with the owner of a still larger breed in Holstein; while the grower and manufacturer of beet-root sugar in the north exhibited his roots and his sugar against the grower of the same produce in the south.

To have a general idea of the affair, we will ask the reader to transport himself in imagination to the French capital, and conjure up before his mind's eye the scene there presented. The weather is beautiful—"thoroughly Parisian;" the place is thronged with visitors, and crowds are making their way, like ourselves, to the Palace of Industry. As we enter, we meet with people whose faces are familiar; and no wonder, considering that our agricultural societies have their deputations there. The English Agricultural Society, it is true, keeps aloof, as a society, from this great Exhibition; but many leading agriculturists are there, including Mr. Evelyn Devison and Lord Faversham. The Irish and the Scotch societies, however, have their representatives; and the Scotch shepherds, about eighty of whom are here in charge of some sort of stock, are the men whom we have seen driving lambs to Melrose Fair, or exchanging snuff-mills with each other at Fiskirk Tryst.

Everything within the palace is arranged to perfection. Regarded as a more promenade, it is infinitely more charming now than it was during the Universal Exhibition last year. The entire nave, which was then crowded with furniture of all sorts and sizes, heaped together necessarily without much regard to symmetry, is now transformed into a delicious garden. There are lawns, gravel walks, fir-trees and cypresses, fountains and flower-baskets. The coup d'œil from the galleries is charming. On a general view, it appears that the mass of visitors, both gentlemen and ladies, are in fashionable costume. Our provincial friends are scarcely perceptible in the crowd. The Emperor is at Lyons at the time of which we write; but the Empress, accompanied by the Duchess of Hamilton, visits the show, and is drawn along in a wheeled chair. The shepherd who lately presented her with a cow, comes up, and offers his hand. She shakes it heartily, and the man follows her during the whole of her visit, pushing her chair along.

But to enter the building by the principal door, and turn to the cattle, we find that the space beneath the entire range of galleries is divided into stalls, with every breed placed under its distinctive appellation, and so disposed that every individual beast can be inspected with comfort. The English are first ranged, the Durham short-horns commencing the catalogue. We next come to Herefords, Devons, Alderneys, and Guernseys. Scotland occupies a very large space in the Exhibition, and the Ayrshire and Galloway races are upon the whole more admired than any others, and one black bull, without horns, Moss-trooper (Angus breed), created quite a sensation. After taking leave of the Galloways, it is necessary to go outside to see the black Kerry kine, and a variety of mixed English breeds, which are thrust into a tent, where, however, they are very comfortable.

The Austrian department has met with great success, not only from the number of beasts exhibited, but also from the novelty of their appearance, many of the specimens being new seen for the first time in France. The popularity of the animals appears to be in proportion to the length of their horns, which in some cases reach a yard and even a yard and a half in length; and as their unusually long horns diverge in a remarkable manner, the distance between the extreme points is sometimes a yard and a half or even two yards. The cattle of the breed in question are called *Pusturich*, that is to say, cattle of the Poustas or steppes. They have taken possession of that plain, the largest in Europe, which extends from the Danube to the Theiss, and forms about a third of all Hungary. The *Pusturich* are said to be the purest, as they certainly are the most ancient, race of cattle in Europe. Four draught oxen, of light gray colour, having pointed horns at least a yard long, sent by the Countess Petronetta Czaky-Czaky, were much admired. The cattle of Pinzgau, which are found chiefly in the Duchy of Salzburg, are remarkable for their hardness, accustoming themselves with the greatest facility to the roughest and most scanty diet. They appear born to fatness, and even under the most unfavourable circumstances seldom lose flesh. The cows yield little milk, but it is of excellent quality. The same characteristics are found in the Tyrolean cattle, which are somewhat larger than the Pinzgau breed. The Mürzthal, who may be said to form the link between the Hungarian breed and that of Austria properly so called, are found in Styria. Their meat has not so much flavour as that of the fat oxen of Hungary, and they are also inferior to the latter in the performance of agricultural labour. In England we rarely hear of oxen being used for purposes of draught, but on the Continent the case is far different; for in many parts of France, and throughout Germany, an ox is made to perform the functions of a horse during five or six years, and is frequently not slaughtered until it has reached a condition which with us would entitle it only to be turned into sausages. The Mürzthal cattle have delicate white horns with black tips, in which respect they resemble the Hungarian breeds.

Of all the nations that have exhibited, Switzerland has sent by far the greater number of specimens in proportion to its size. The Schwytz breed especially, is represented by a multitude of beasts, which are in most cases very fine. The good qualities of this breed are notorious in Switzerland. They produce excellent meat, plenty of good milk, and pull in an unrivalled manner. The Dutch cows have a reputation worthy of their cheese. The best are those bred in the pastures of Gouda, the fertile plain which the visitor to Rotterdam must have noticed immediately outside the city on the road to Utrecht.

As regards the production of milk, the Voigtland cows, from Saxony, are said to be equal to any. An engraving of one of them will be noticed in another part of our paper, in the vicinity of some white Yorkshire boars, and opposite a West Highland cow, of which any description would be superfluous.

As regards the Voigtland breed, however, we may remark, that it presents many points of resemblance with the Devon. It has the same coat, the same small head, and is generally like it in form, though somewhat smaller; this smallness is not astonishing, as the beasts come from a district which is covered in some places with forests, in others with marshes, and so poor that it has been named the Saxon Siberia. Accordingly, the inhabitants have to use the cows for agricultural purposes, milk them, and slaughter them; and it is found that they answer admirably every use to which a cow can be turned.

France makes a very good show indeed. One is much struck by the care with which the different races are arranged. There are the Charolaise all white, the Flemish red, the Garonnaise dun colour, the Bretons black and white, &c., all classed according to the purest types of their races.

The exhibition of sheep has been very satisfactory this year, which was not the case in 1855, when France, in particular, was very imperfectly represented. Considered as so much living mutton, the English sheep have been acknowledged to have been the most successful competitors; but if looked upon in the capacity of wool bearers, the prize, it is said, should be awarded to the French. It is the French themselves, however, who make this assertion. While on the subject of wool, we may remark that some jealousy has been excited by the appearance of the British sheep with the customary ruddle upon them. One critic of the Agricultural Exhibition is of opinion that the English exhibitors paint their sheep in order to enhance their beauty, and seems to think that their proper place would be in the Exhibition of Fine Arts. He objects, above all, to some highly coloured sheep, which he speaks of as "Hampshire down, bred in Wiltshire," and which are said to invite the attention of the public by their "couleur rose." The critic calls on the jury to direct that such affected animals should have their wool cut, or at all events not have it dyed.

Among the finest of all the sheep exhibited were those of Saxony, whose wool left nothing to be desired. We publish an engraving of one of those interesting animals, which, however, in our opinion, is inferior to the black-faced ram from Scotland, whose horns are more curly, and whose wool is decidedly longer—let us hope it is not dyed!

The English pigs, which were inordinately fat, were the objects of general admiration. Some, which were unable to move, created a perfect enthusiasm.

A Yorkshire sow, imported by M. Allier, of the Petit-bourg Farm, gained the greatest success, and has excited some envy in consequence of the unusual advantages enjoyed by Yorkshire and other sows at M. Allier's model establishment, which receives a regular subvention from Government.

Besides the domestic animals, a few are exhibited which seem almost entitled to the epithet of "wild." Nor was the exhibition of animals confined to quadrupeds alone. The poultry yard was represented in a most imposing manner, and here all the English specimens were remarkably successful, from the sublime Cochon-China to the ridiculous bantam. Amongst the French fowls, the crested ones were especially remarkable for their size and beauty. Our Dorkings were much admired, and it appears that their qualities are appreciated, although the breed has hitherto been seldom seen in France.

Outside the building, whole rows of agricultural implements were placed, and formed objects of attraction to the country people, who have hitherto been accustomed to the simpler tools of a more primitive agriculture; while the galleries of the Palace are filled with specimens of the vegetable and mineral products of every region of the earth, and with the smaller agricultural implements of those countries in which the makers thought they could contribute something creditable to themselves in this department of the Exhibition.

The Emperor has purchased 100,000*l.* worth of agricultural implements, grain, cattle, &c., to be distributed among the *communes* of the departments, and, no doubt, the Exhibition will give a great impulse to farming in France.

The French, it seems, have little confidence in the utility of cattle shows, but then it is well known that they believe in nothing in which they do not excel; at all events, fatness is not a characteristic of the animals sent to these exhibitions, although the French writers take the trouble to inform us, that, if that quality were considered a desideratum, their breeders would have no trouble in obtaining it. The cattle sent to Baker Street are only adapted for conversion into meat; whereas most of the animals exhibited by the French at the Paris Exhibition are examined by the jury with reference to their strength, their capacity for producing milk, and the small expense at which they can be kept.

Whatever may be the defects of the fattening system in England, it is acknowledged, that whereas a Durham ox is ready to be slaughtered at the age of forty or forty-four months, the French find that their beasts are unfitness for the honours of the slaughter-house, until they are at least six or seven years old. Accordingly, in a financial point of view, the English plan would appear to be the best, as it is tolerably certain that, however expensively it may be fed, an ox will eat less in forty-four months than in half a dozen years. The question, however, then arises, how far the meat of these unreasonably fat oxen is available in the French cuisine. We have always suspected, that, even in England, the flesh of a prize ox was far more valuable to the tallow-chandler than to the cook; but it appears that what we should only call moderately fat beef is objected to by the French housekeeper for its fatness.

In England, where most of the beef, in which the nation takes so truly national a delight, is roasted in joints or broiled in steaks, these two operations are favoured by the presence of a considerable portion of fat. In France roast meats are looked upon as luxuries, and seldom tasted by the working classes, whose principal article of diet is soup and the leather-like substance called *bouilli* by which it is followed. It is asserted on undoubted authority, whatever Englishmen may think to the contrary, that this *bouilli*, with the soup which precedes it, is made out of beef; and we are not prepared to contradict the French authorities on the question when they affirm that French beef alone is capable of producing it in all its perfection. To examine the subject in a chemical point of view, the fat meat of our cattle shows contains little or no osmazome—a substance of an aromatic flavour—which is obtained from muscular fibre, and gives the characteristic odour and taste to soup. Consequently very fat meat is unavailable for soup purposes, and accordingly fatness is not likely to be considered of primary importance among a nation of soup eaters. The reputation of the Durham breed has of late years become so great throughout the Continent, and especially in France, that constant endeavours are made to obtain crosses from it; but the French "Durham" will never be remarkable for more fatness, whatever may be the case with the Belgian "Durham," the Flemish "Durham," or the Dutch "Durham," for the term has now been adopted on the Continent for any breed of oxen into which the Durham blood has entered to any considerable extent.

The English animals exhibited have accordingly gained more reputation among the French exhibitors for quantity than for quality, and our department of the exhibition is the only one in which the cattle were systematically arranged according to age; but the method has been recommended for general adoption on the next occasion.

HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITION.

In order to increase the brilliancy of the Exhibition, horticulture has been added to agriculture, and the grand transept of the Palace of Industry has been transformed into a delicious garden. In this vast space, which contains about ten thousand square yards, little grass plots have been laid out, for which more than five thousand yards of turf are said to have been brought from the plains of Issy and Auteuil. Winding paths intersect and surround the numerous plots of grass, in the midst of which are beds, baskets, and stands of flowers, or clumps formed of the indigenous and exotic shrubs exhibited by the most renowned horticulturists of all parts of the world. The most varied and picturesque effect is produced by the arrangement of the trees, plants, and flowers. Nor has the comfort of the visitors been forgotten, as benches and seats of a more or less rustic description have been placed in various parts of the garden. The scene is rendered still more attractive by some very elegant fountains, which are surrounded with flowers, and at a distance have the appearance of enormous bouquets. The basins are filled with fish of various descriptions, and many of the visitors forget the more positive advantages of the Agricultural Exhibition in the attractions of this highly ornamental garden.

THE OUTRAGE UPON SENATOR SUMNER.—The last accounts of Mr. Sumner's health are favourable, and it was hoped that he would soon be able to leave his chamber. The select committee of the Senate, appointed to investigate the facts attending the assault, report that, although the assault was a violation of the privileges of the Senate, it is not within their jurisdiction to punish Mr. Brooks, and that the offence can only be punished by the House of Representatives, of which Mr. Brooks is a member; they therefore recommended a complaint to the House. The Senate, upon receiving this report, transmitted a message to the House of Representatives, and a select committee of the latter body was at once appointed, and passed a resolution, formally expelling Mr. Brooks from the House. "Indignation" meetings, attended by thousands of the most respectable citizens, have been held in the Broadway Tabernacle, New York; Brooklyn, Buffalo, Syracuse, Philadelphia, and numerous other places. On the other hand, Mr. Brooks has numerous sympathisers. The constituents of Mr. Brooks have sent him a testimonial, in the form of a cane and a massive silver pitcher, both of which have arrived in Washington. Some of the gentlemen of Charleston have also provided a suitable present in the shape of a cane. It is to be borne in mind, that "Hit him again." The "South Carolina Times" says:—"Colonel Brooks has done nothing that the South Carolinians ought to be ashamed of. He has boldly stepped forward at the risk of his life, ease, and social relation, in defence of the chivalrous Butler, and we know that there will be found but one sentiment among the people of Carolina, which is—'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.'" The Governor of South Carolina heads the subscription-list for a testimonial to Mr. Brooks.

STRANGE DISCOVERY.—A portress was lately employed in clearing a loft over a stable of the Swan coach-house, Bristol, of some lumber, of which the loft was nearly full. He had nearly finished, when he struck against something round, which lay close to the wall, and on taking it to the light, found it was a skull. Information was given to the police, by whom further search was made, and all the other parts of a human body, apparently that of a man of middle age, were found. In the opinion of some medical men the deceased had been dead at least fifty years.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE AMERICAN QUESTION.

Lord Derby asked whether the Government had received intelligence from the Government of the United States intended to disavow Mr. Crampton's withdrawal the exequatur of the three Consuls. He also asked if any notice of this intelligence had been received, what the Government proposed to do in consequence thereof. Lord CLARENDON replied that Mr. Dallas had communicated to the British Government the explanations offered by the American Government in relation to the exequatur question were satisfactory, but declaring that Mr. Crampton's withdrawal from the Consuls was not acceptable to the Government of the United States. Mr. Crampton was to have his passports sent to him, and their exequatur withdrawn as to the course to be pursued, but when they did this would be time in having a copy of the despatch before Parliament. He might say that Mr. Dallas had communicated a second dispatch relating to Central America, in which Mr. May's said there were some points upon which it was necessary to the negotiation of a third Power might be referred to with advantage, but pressing an opinion that the whole question might be disposed of by negotiation.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE AMERICAN QUESTION.

In reply to a question by Mr. Disraeli, Lord PALMERSTON made a statement precisely in accordance with what Lord CLARENDON said in the House of Lords. Lord J. RUSSELL observed that this was a most critical state of affairs, and that the House ought to have the earliest information in order to express an opinion upon the subject, for while the House was silent, the matter was taken up by newspapers and discussed sometimes in a tone and spirit not favourable to the continuance of peace. It was desirable that the Government should have an opportunity of stating their views upon the subject, and on May 11, when the House was moved to go into a committee of supply, he should have raised the question to the House.

The House then went into a committee of supply. THE PARK IMPROVEMENTS. Lord PALMERSTON moved two votes of £1,500 and £3,500 respectively, for the purpose of making a road from the investigations near the German chapel, to St. James's Park, and erecting a suspension bridge for foot passengers over the water in the enclosure of that park. Three grants, he observed, had been rendered necessary by the discontinuance of a large vote proposed for the completion of general map documents and new communications in and about St. James's Park.

Both votes were affirmed. NAVY ESTIMATES. Sir C. WOOD, in moving the Navy Estimate for the remaining nine months of the year (supplemental to those voted in February), prefaced the first vote of 56,000 men—40,000 seamen and 16,000 marines—with a general explanation of the statement. There was a nominal reduction of 20,000 seamen; but the reduction was about 14,000, the marine corps remaining unaltered. The number of men, he admitted, was larger than had been maintained in past years; but, although he had no apprehension of war, it would be unwise, he thought, under the circumstances, to make a greater reduction of present force, which it was desirable to reduce gradually and slowly.

The several votes, after a long discussion, were agreed to. VOTE OF CREDIT. THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER obtained a vote of credit for £200,000. He asked for this further supply in order to meet any possible excess of expenditure, he intimated, would be raised by an issue of Exchequer Bonds.

PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS BILL. The motion for going into committee on the Parochial Schools (Sabbath) Bill, was opposed by Mr. C. BRUCE, who moved as an amendment that the bill should be referred for six months. A prolonged discussion resulted in the details of the bill resumed. On a division there appeared for the amendment 126; for the amendment, 90—36. But before the first clause was proposed, the Oxford University Bill was read a third time and passed.

MONDAY, JUNE 16.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE AMERICAN QUESTION.

The Earl of DERBY called the attention of the House to the state of our relations with America, and wished to know what conclusion the Government arrived at in the present emergency. The Earl of CLARENDON replied that it was not the intention of the Government to suspend diplomatic relations with the United States. The Joint Stock Companies Bill was then read a second time, and their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE SARDINIAN LOAN.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER moved a resolution authorising the Lords of the Treasury to advance £1,000,000 to the Sardinian Government, in accordance with the treaty. The resolution was agreed to.

THE AMERICAN QUESTION.

On the order for going into a committee of supply, Lord J. RUSSELL rose to ask explanations from the Government respecting the relations with the United States. Despatches had been received by her Majesty's Government, declaring that with respect to the recruiting question the Government of the United States were satisfied with the explanation given by her Majesty's Government. The United States Government, however, could not be equally satisfied with the conduct of Mr. Crampton; but they had accepted of this intimation with a very positive declaration of their wish to be on the best of terms with us; and with regard to the Central American question, they had confessed their willingness to enter into negotiations with her Majesty's Government. Independent of the merits of this question, there are two very important points, respecting which the House ought to be informed. The first was whether it was the intention of her Majesty's Government to desire that Mr. Dallas should be withdrawn. The second point related to the intentions of the Government whether diplomatic intercourse with the United States were broken off or not regarding Central America, where, unless precautions were taken, another might happen and collisions might arise that would compromise the relations between the two countries. He hoped that the commanders of the ships of war of both states would receive orders not to allow the miserable quarrels in Central America to involve two great nations in hostilities, which no man in this country, and he hoped in America, who had at heart the cause of humanity, of peaceful commerce, and of liberty, could contemplate without sorrow.

Lord PALMERSTON said the tenor of the despatches recently received by Lord CLARENDON must be known to every member, although they had not been laid before the House, as copies of the answers could not accompany them. He was, however, ready to answer the questions put by Lord J. Russell. Although the United States Government had thought fit to intimate to Mr. Crampton that they could not continue diplomatic relations with him, that intimation did not go to the extent of a rupture of diplomatic intercourse with this country, on the contrary, that despatch was accompanied by another, expressing a desire to continue intercourse through the American Minister at this Court. Her Majesty's Government, after duly considering the subject, had not deemed it to be their duty to suspend diplomatic intercourse with the American Minister; and they were prepared to enter into communication with him in regard to the matters in dispute. He assured Lord J. Russell and the House that it was the desire of her Majesty's Government to avoid any occasion of hostile collision, and instructions to that effect had been given to the commanders of the naval force recently despatched to protect British interests, British subjects, and British property. He concurred with Lord J. Russell in the sentiments he had expressed, that it would be lamentable if two great countries should be brought through the perverseness of any men, into hostilities with each other. While on the one hand, this country never was in a better position to carry on a war, if forced upon us; on the other, that very condition was a reason why it could, without derogation, act with moderation and forbearance.

Mr. DISRAELI said he was glad to hear from Lord Palmerston that, so far as the Government of the United States was concerned, the departure of Mr. Crampton was not to be regarded as a rupture of diplomatic relations. But, although the United States Government had drawn a distinction between the conduct of Mr. Crampton and that of his Government, he trusted that the House of Commons would not in that respect follow their example, but would hold her Majesty's Government responsible, and announce to this country, to Europe, and to America, that the House was not prepared to fix the blame upon an individual who had attempted to do his duty, and had apparently acted upon the instructions of his superiors, and make him the scapegoat of the Government. The subject then dropped.

COMMISSIONS OF DECEASED OFFICERS.

Mr. GOGAN moved a resolution, pledging the House to consider in committee an address to her Majesty, recommending that the regulation value of the commissions of officers in the army, who shall have died of cholera or fever in the service during the late war, may be paid to their representatives, and decided part of their personal estate.

This motion gave rise to a debate of considerable length, involving the questions of military promotion, the purchase of commissions, and other matters relating to the army. It was opposed by Lord PALMERSTON, on the ground that the arrangement of last year, upon which the warrant of March last was founded, was distinctly understood to be

ply only to those officers who were killed in action, there being a clear distinction between their case and that of officers dying from disease.

Upon a division, the motion was negatived by 31 to 39.

ST. JAMES'S PARK.

On the report of the committee of supply being brought up, the vote of £3,500 for a suspension bridge over the ornamental water in St. James's Park was opposed by

Lord ELCHO, who objected that the beauty of the park should not be sacrificed to public convenience; but, if that point was overruled, that the expenditure of public money should not be intrusted to the Board of Works for this purpose until the plan of design had been previously seen.

Sir J. PAXTON suggested certain specific objections to the bridge, and that it would have been better not to have changed the plan; but if a bridge was necessary, he thought it should be let alone until some well-digested plan was proposed.

After some remarks by Mr. TITE and Mr. HENLEY, who preferred a ferry, Sir B. HALL said it was in consequence of representations made to him by inhabitants on both sides of the water that he had proposed this bridge, which would be of the lightest possible character consistent with durability and with the weight it was to bear.

Lord PALMERSTON observed that a bridge in itself was a beauty, and of all bridges a suspension-bridge was in its nature the most graceful and most beautiful. He thought such a bridge over the ornamental water would be a great public convenience.

The resolution of the committee was subsequently affirmed by 119 votes against 93.

TUESDAY, JUNE 17.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords sat only for a short time, and adjourned after forwarding several bills a stage.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PROTESTANT SCHOOLS IN IRELAND.

Mr. WALPOLE called attention to the hardship and injustice inflicted upon Protestant schools in Ireland, in being deprived of all aid from the Government grant, simply because the rule of reading and teaching the holy Scriptures in school hours is adhered to.—The Education Board recognising no schools but those in which merely secular instruction is given. Mr. Walpole concentrated his views in a motion for an address to the Crown, praying her Majesty to direct that such modifications may be made in the rules of the national system of education in Ireland as will extend the advantages now enjoyed by nonvested schools to any other than vested schools now existing, or hereafter to be established, whatever their regulations may be as to the mode of religious instruction; provided that no children shall be compelled to learn any catechism, creed, or formula; to which any parent or guardian may object; and provided that the patron shall be willing to place such schools in connection with the board, to permit the board's control over books to be used in general instruction, and to receive officially the visits of the Government inspectors. Mr. Walpole added that his proposals were identical with the resolutions which Lord Derby proposed in a committee of the House of Lords, as the result of his experience and observation of the working of his own plan. From personal conversation with that Noble Lord, he could state his Lordship approved of the motion he now submitted to the House, deeming it a reasonable and necessary modification of the existing system.

Sir WILLIAM HENNESSY seconded the motion.

Mr. KENNEDY opposed the motion, which, if adopted, would, he said, overturn a system that was working satisfactorily, and revive religious discord in Ireland, for the sake of one-seventh or one-eighth of the schools.

Mr. HORSMAN also opposed the motion, his conviction being that its adoption would cause great disturbance and mischief in Ireland. The present system had been eminently successful, and that arose from the fact that it was conducted in such a way as to avoid the very suspicion of anything like proselytism.

Mr. G. A. HAMILTON supported the motion, which, he thought, would have the effect of settling this question, by removing a sense of injustice which prevailed among Protestants in Ireland, and rendering the system, which it would supplement, not subvert, efficient, by enabling all parties to avail themselves of it.

Mr. NAPIER supported the motion. He asked that the same principle might be applied to the Protestants of Ireland as had been applied in England, and even in India, where no exclusive condition was attached to educational grants.

After some remarks by Sir J. Fitzgerald in opposition to the motion, the House divided, when Mr. Walpole's motion was carried by 113 to 103, a majority of 10 against the Government.

The Pence Preservation (Ireland) Bill passed through committee, with an amendment moved by Mr. ISAAC BUTT, limiting the duration of the measure to two years instead of five, as originally inserted in the measure.

Other business was proceeded with, and the House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE NAWAB OF SURAT.

The House spent some hours in discussing the Nawab of Surat Treaty Bill, which is intended to secure to the heir of the late Nawab the annuity guaranteed to his predecessor, but which the East India Company now refuses to pay. After a long debate, involving a multitude of personal and technical details, the bill was ordered to stand for third reading.

MR. BAILLIE'S MOTION ON THE AMERICAN QUESTION.

Mr. BAILLIE, in answer to an appeal from Major Reed, announced, that, as it might be inconvenient for the public service to enter upon a discussion of American affairs at this particular juncture, he had resolved not to persevere with his motion put down for Thursday.

THE IRISH EDUCATION SCHEME.

Mr. C. FORBESCU, adhering to the resolution on the subject of National Education in Ireland, carried on the previous night, expressed his conviction that the majority on that occasion did not represent the real sense of the House. He intimated his intention to propose a counter-resolution supporting the present system, and hoped that an early day might be fixed for its discussion.

Lord PALMERSTON coincided in the opinion that the vote of Tuesday should be considered accidental, and appointed Monday next for the further discussion of the subject upon the motion notified by Mr. Forbescu.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

OATH OF ABJURATION BILL.

The Earl of DERBY intimated that in the event of the Oath of Abjuration Bill being rejected he would bring in another measure free from those passages in the existing oath which related to the Pretender, and otherwise adapting the oath to suit the altered circumstances of the times. The Noble Earl laid on the table the heads of his proposed bill.

THE SARDINIAN LOAN.

On the motion of the Earl of CLARENDON, a resolution, concurring in the Queen's message on the subject of the loan of an additional million to the King of Sardinia, was agreed to, and their Lordships adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE ARMY STAFF.

On the question that the House go into a Committee of Supply, Capt. L. VERNON moved, "That it is the opinion of this House that it will be to the advantage of the service to employ general officers from the scientific corps on the staff of the army."

Mr. PEEL concurred in the opinion thus expressed; but doubted the propriety of fettering the Government by a resolution of the House as to the class of officers that should be employed. In future, in the selection of officers, the only question would be—who is the fittest for the service to be performed?

The resolution was negatived without a division.

SUPPLY.

The remaining votes for the military and ordnance services were brought forward and agreed to after a miscellaneous discussion.

In bringing forward the ordnance estimates, Mr. MONNELL briefly explained the nature and extent of the reductions which had been effected since the conclusion of peace upon the charges for clothing, provisions, forage, and other branches of the department. The result showed a saving of about half a million on those items of expenditure.

On the vote for the scientific branch, a prolonged and animated debate took place respecting the survey of Scotland. Mr. ELLICE moved that the amount of the vote should be reduced by £5,000. This amendment was carried to a division, but negatived by a majority of 160 to 69. The vote was then passed.

PRINCE NAPOLEON has arrived in England.

Sir EDMUND LYONS, we have good authority for stating, is to be raised to the peerage.

EMERSON has testified very strongly, not only against the disgraceful attack on Mr. Sumner, but against the union of the free and the slave states of America.

THE REV. THOMAS PALMER has now denied the authorship of the pamphlet in defence of his brother.

BARBAROUS MURDER.—A dreadful murder has been committed on the keeper of the Thorpe toll-gate, near Melton Mowbray. The murdered man, Edward Woodcock, who was seventy years of age, was found on the floor with his throat cut, a bullet through his body, and stabbed in at least a dozen places; while his grandson, aged ten, lay in bed with his head nearly severed, and his body also frightfully gashed.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. XXIII.

PARLIAMENTARY BORES.

EVERY large company of men has its bores. Men who will sneak whether they are listened to or not, and pertinaciously too, though it must be evident to them that they are boring the company. It cannot, therefore, be supposed that the House of Commons is free from the troublesome animal. Nor is it; for, as every one who habitually attends its sittings too well knows, we have here bores in great plenty. When the House is full, and excited, these gentlemen are not very troublesome, for if a man rises whom the Members do not wish to hear, they have their own peculiar way of silencing him. A method not very dignified, it is true, but very effective. The time when the bores are in the ascendant is the dinner hour; from 6.30 to eight o'clock. Then your bore has all his own way.

THE APPEARANCE OF THE HOUSE WHEN BORED.

It is a curious sight which the House presents when Boredom reigns. There are perhaps about fifty to a hundred Members present. These are the early diners, who are here from various motives. Some, because they have nothing else to do; others to keep the House for some motion which they hope will come on; and some to rest, but very few to listen. And so it is usually the case, that whilst the Bore is in possession, "winds his sultry horn," most of the Members are really asleep or in a reverie, or in that half-dozing state when the voice of the speaker is heard but conveys no meaning to the inward sense. But all this does not deter the Bore. There he stands with a bundle of papers, and the eternal Blue-book by his side, and pours out his platitudes in monotonous voice, seemingly careless whether men will hear or forbear. Nobody cheers him nor does any one interrupt him, for nobody listens to him. The Premier is evidently fast asleep, and has been for this half hour. And if Mr. Wilson, the only other Member of the Government present, is not asleep also, he certainly is paying very little attention to what is going on. Mr. Speaker of course is awake, and so is the Serjeant-at-Arms, though the eyes of both are shut; for it is not to be supposed that these important functionaries ever sleep at their post. Many a good nap have we ourselves enjoyed on these occasions; sometimes we have tried to keep awake to take notes, but it was in vain. The steady murmuring ripple of the Hon. Bore's talk was quite irresistible. At first the words fell distinctly upon our ears; then they seemed to change into a buzz, like those of a bluebottle fly on a window pane on a sultry summer's afternoon; and at last were lost altogether.

THE BORE AND THE SNORE.

The only time we ever remember to have seen a speaker of this genus fairly disconcerted was one evening during last Session. We forget who the gentleman was, but that is no matter. He was speaking in the usual tone, and with the usual even placid flow, when lo! some Hon. Member at the farthest end of the House began to snore—and such a snore! It was not a short, jerky snore, but a regular long-winded snore. Some one more awake than the rest faintly called, "Order"; but as Mr. Speaker did not respond, and as nobody thought it worth while to go and rouse the sleeper, the Bore was obliged to go on, and accommodate his droning pipe to this unexpected bass accompaniment as well as he could. As soon as the Bore sits down, he hies off to the lobby, there to inclose copies of the statistics and quotations in envelopes for the morning papers; and then to the dining-room—for it is a characteristic of these gentlemen that they seldom stop in the House after they have delivered themselves of their burden. Indeed, why should they? The vocation of the Bore proper is to speak, not to hear. And, further, they also know that the succeeding Bore will take no notice in the way of reply to what has gone before. He will do what his predecessor has done, viz., fire off the speech which he has prepared.

THE BORING STOPPED.

Sometimes, however, the Bore meets with a most disagreeable *contre-temps*. For it not unfrequently happens, that whilst he has been droning away, all unconscious of anything but himself and his speech, some ways outside have been conspiring to count him out. And suddenly, to his great dismay, when he is in the act of quoting some irrefragable statistics, or, as he thinks, triumphantly proving his case, Mr. Speaker rises, orders strangers to withdraw, and, at the expiration of two minutes, having found that not forty Members are present, adjourns the House. Absorbed in his work, the Hon. Member did not observe that for several minutes past there had been silent signals going on between some Members at the Bar and those in the House; and that in consequence, several Members had risen, and quietly glided away; whispering as they passed to others to follow. And it was only the ringing shout of laughter from the lobby, which hailed the adjournment, that roused the Hon. Member to the fact that he had been "done." Of course, when he made the discovery, he was very indignant; threatened to bring the matter before the House, &c.

PRIVILEGE! PRIVILEGE!!

Some of the Radical papers have lately been very angry when the House has been "counted out," and threaten to "write down" the exercise of this privilege; and it has become the fashion of late for some Hon. Member to take down the names of the members actually present on these occasions, and send them to the newspapers, not only that they may be known and applauded, but that those who are not there may be also known, and held up to scorn. But all this is perfectly futile. The "count out" is one of the most valuable privileges that the House possesses, for if it were not for that, boredom would be triumphant—when, with boring motions and boring members, the House would be bored to death. We have known members who had motions on the paper themselves encourage the counting out of the House, in order to relieve themselves of some disagreeable business which had been thrust upon them. It is not a month ago since the Hon. Member for — sat quietly in the library, and would not make a House for a motion of his fixed to come on first that night.

FIVE ATTEMPTS AT COUNT OUT IN ONE NIGHT.

An unprecedented circumstance in parliamentary history took place lately—we had four unsuccessful and one successful count in one night. Three unsuccessful attempts were made when Mr. Heywood's motion on the Encouragement of Science and Art was before the House, and the House would have certainly gone, but it so happened there was a motion to come on in which an Irish gentleman was interested, and therefore sundry Irish Members, every time the bell rang, rushed up from the dining room and saved the House. Four times in an hour did these patriotic Members leave the table and hurry to the rescue. But though they succeeded, and the motion came on, the House was doomed by the fates not to die a natural death that night. It was counted out at last, though not till twelve o'clock, and then it occurred: The Clerk was reading the orders of the day, when Mr. Brotherton moved that the House should adjourn, and only withdrew his motion on the tacit understanding that every opposed order should be postponed. But when some motion on Irish Fisheries was called, Mr. MacMahon insisted upon discussing it; and, as the Members considered this a breach of faith, they left in a body, and counted the offender out.

THE LORDS AND THE COMMONS.—Lord Brougham, having heard that change of air was necessary for the restoration of Mr. Bright's health, wrote to offer him the use of his chateau at Cannes, in France. Mr. Bright consulted his medical men, who informed him that the air at Cannes would not suit him. When this was communicated to Lord Brougham, he expressed his regret that his offer was not available, and begged Mr. Bright's acceptance of a complete edition of his works.

Dr. MONTAGU VILLIERS, recently appointed Bishop of Carlisle, will take his seat in the House of Lords in consequence of the death of the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol. The new Bishop of Gloucester will not be entitled to a seat until another vacancy occurs.

SHAKESPEARE'S HOUSE IN A GLASS CASE.—Shakespeare's house, it would seem, is to have a crystal palace to itself. During the year of the Great Exhibition, 1851, an idea was first started of enclosing the house in which Shakespeare is reputed to have been born, in a large structure of glass, isolating it at the same time from the surrounding buildings, by removing them, in order to ensure its preservation from fire, even as the former arrangement was calculated to protect it from the effects of the weather. This proposal fell to the ground; but within these few weeks, a certain Mr. John Shakespeare, who claims relationship with the family of the immortal bard, has been in Stratford making inquiries and arrangements preparatory to carrying out a similar plan. The sum he intends to spend in thus gratifying his feelings is about three thousand pounds; and Sir Joseph Paxton and Messrs. Fox and Henderson are to be consulted as to the details.

THE WORKERS at Fordel freestone quarry have discovered what seems to be a fossil resembling a human being, rather under the size of an adult. The rock is broken where the hip joint is represented. The head, neck, face, shoulders, chest, ribs, &c., are plainly perceptible.

Literature.

Letter-writing Simplified for those who are not used to it. A Guide to Friendly, Affectionate, Commercial, and Complimentary Correspondence. Groombridge and Sons.

THIS book on letter-writing is addressed to those who are "not used to it" and is not calculated to be of advantage to those who are ever likely to practise the art. There are only two ways of teaching a person to write a correct letter. Give him the necessary instruction in orthography, etymology, and syntax; after which, if he has anything to say, he will find no difficulty in saying it properly; or, supply him with the model of a letter to copy from or imitate. However, when a man has only a quarter of an hour, or a day, or even a week, to write his letter in, it is useless to think of teaching him in the first instance the whole of the principles of English composition. In such a case we should, therefore, have to fall back on the second method, which consists in giving him models to copy from—the method, in fact, which has been adopted by the talented author of the "Complete Letter Writer." This system, again, is full of inconveniences. If the would-be Walpole copies out his epistle *verbatim*, it will probably have the disadvantage of not expressing precisely what he wishes to say; whereas if he ventures to alter a single sentence it may stand out in such strong relief from the elegant and polished style of the remainder, as to render his ignorance more ridiculous than it would have appeared if it had gently pervaded the whole.

The author of the work before us, perceiving the want of a satisfactory guide to letter-writing, has determined to supply it; and if he has been unable to carry out his determination, his failure has proceeded, not from his own incapacity alone, but also from the impossible nature of the task itself. The writer loses a great deal of more or less valuable time and space in informing us that "Complete Letter-writers" are incomplete; and that many persons write absurd letters. Of course, if this were not the case there would be no necessity for publishing a new work on the epistolary art. The one under notice, however, is itself singularly incomplete. For instance, it says nothing about love-letters. And yet, as persons who cultivate amatory correspondence are essentially vain, some endeavour ought to have been made to enable them to sigh through two or three pages of note-paper without exposing themselves to more ridicule than is ordinarily attached to the writers of such effusions. But if the author has here sinned on the side of reticence, he has, in another instance, been guilty of quite the opposite fault; for while he gives us no specimen whatever of the *billet-doux*, so difficult to compose, he favours us with several models of dunning letters, which any tailor or bootmaker, butcher or baker in the world, can write.

Some of the remarks on spelling give evidence of a fine orthographical taste. Thus, we are told that "there are some kinds of bad spelling that enable us to distinguish between the carelessness of the scholar and the blundering of an ignorant writer; for instance, the confounding of the comparative 'as' for the past tense of the verb 'to have.' " To confound the comparative "as" for the past tense of the verb "to have," can never be desirable, nor would we place much confidence in the effect which the author himself attributes to the word "if." "The verb also takes the form of *were* in any conditional case; so that, whenever it is preceded by *if*, you will bear in mind that *was* is a sign of vulgarity and ignorance. If I were, if thou were, if we were, if you were, if they were." "If thou *were*" would also, doubtless, be a sign of vulgarity and ignorance in the opinion of the author. If he was ever at school (we print "was" boldly, in defiance of his rule), he may, nevertheless, end to mind some instance of a boy being caned for entertaining such an opinion.

In another place we are made acquainted with a very simple, but entirely false rule, respecting the pronunciation of the diphthongs *ie* and *ei*. "In each case," we are told, "the second vowel has its full sound, and the first remains mute." Accordingly, "deceive" and "receive" ought to be pronounced "deice" and "reice."

"Letter-writing Simplified" is not calculated to benefit any one, and it may injure those persons whose grammatical notions are somewhat unsettled. The book is a bad specimen of a bad class. As it is, far too many letters are written; and it is really fortunate that some persons experience so much difficulty in composing them, that they refrain, as a general rule, from writing at all.

ALFIERI. By C. MITCHELL CHARLES. London: Chapman and Hall. ALFIERI is a sketch of the life, adventures, and works of that patrician poet, who regenerated the modern Italian drama; who completed twelve tragedies before he was thirty-two, and was the author of nineteen when he reached his fortieth year; and who was described by Byron as "the great name of the age."

We can hardly imagine any more interesting book than a life of Alfieri would be if written by a man capable at once of sympathising with his aristocratic sentiments, comprehending his democratic principles, and giving a picturesque representation of the various scenes of that extraordinary life—which opened with the fiercest dissipation, and closed with the most ardent and romantic love. Mr. Charles, lamenting that so little is known in this country of Alfieri, presents the public with the sketch before us. It is clever in its way, but far too meagre in every respect to be accepted as a substitute for such a biography as we have indicated. We have read it with pleasure, however, and give our readers the benefit of an extract or two as specimens.

"His life was characterized by great contradictions. Self-indulgent to excess and self-mortifying to austerity; a duellist and a philosopher; passionate and frigid; what we should call a Radical, and yet a Tory too; a hasty, impetuous man, and a patient student; a horse-jockey and a poet—he represents the singular spectacle of one who could not control his passions, though he earned little for the indulgence of them,—who sought Fame, and shut his ears to her praises when he had won them,—who, in a word, combined in one nature the fiery heat of a furnace and the cold of an ice-house."

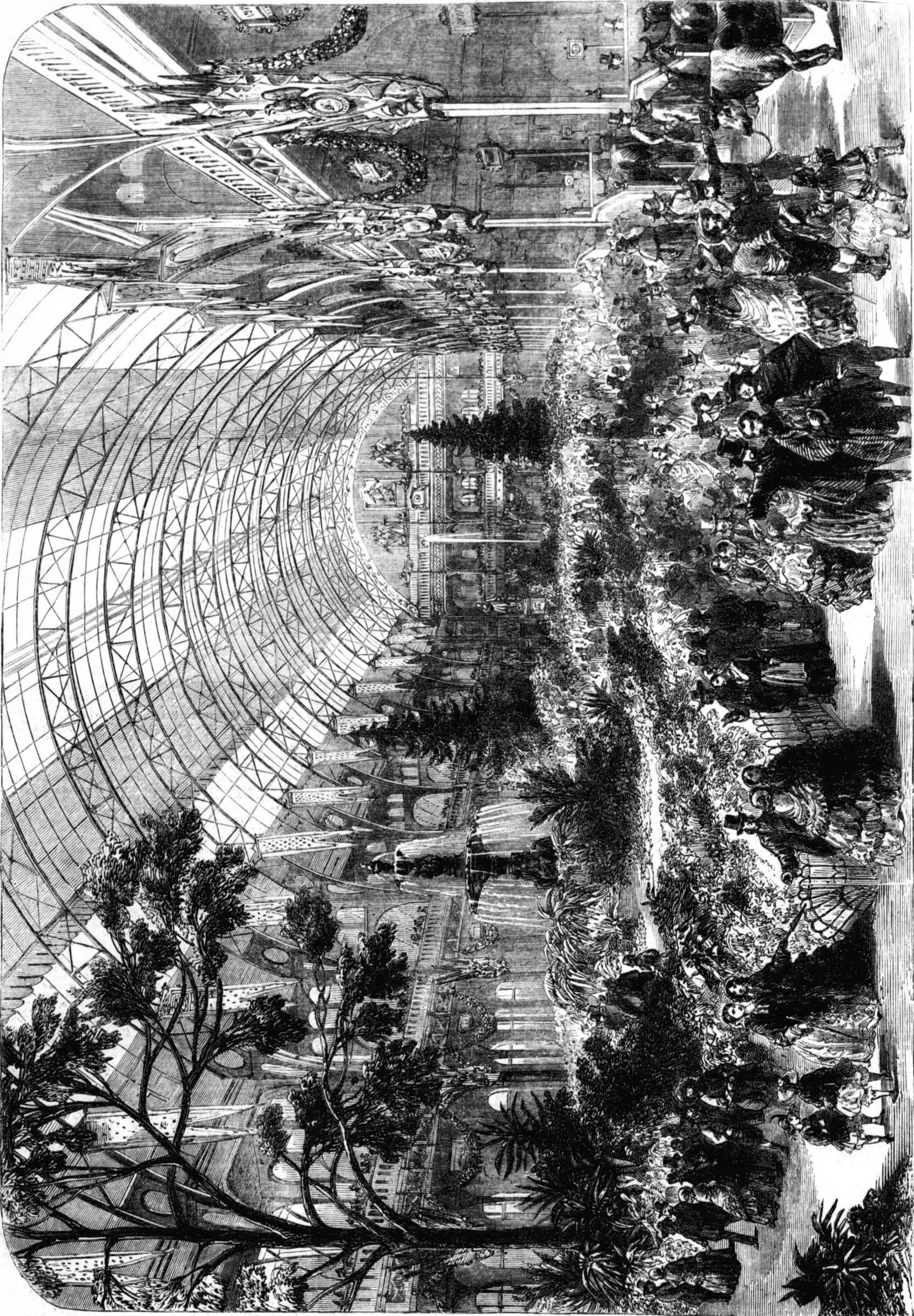
"He was a king-later. Born a noble, he had a controversy with nature because he was not born a king. But he had no sympathy with mere every-day plebeians, who hated aristocrats as well as kings. When, therefore, in after-years, he was an eye-witness of some of the horrors of the French Revolution (he was in Paris on the 10th of August, 1792), and saw what atrocities his theories led, and how he had confused a general question of the utility of government with an individual one of aristocratic exemption,—and how the republicans abhorred his order as well as the reign one,—he repented of, and even retracted, the philippics which he had published, and which would have applied as much to authority in rags as in purple. It was evident, on the whole, that he had better remain every inch a count, than be a mere 'citizen,' even although his monarch remained 'every inch a king.'"

There are certainly in this volume a page or two remarkably striking; and they consist of an extract from Alfieri's "Autobiography," in which he describes how he—the fiery patrician and excitable poet—cowed the fierce democracy of Paris, and how, in this way, he and the Countess of Albany were the only foreigners who effected their escape out of France after the catastrophe of "the 10th of August," (1792).

Mr. Charles thus describes the last scene of his hero's earthly career:—"Towards morning he began to talk in his sleep. The history of the past thirty years seemed to rise up before him, and he spoke of his life and studies and writings, of his hopes and disappointments and joys. At six o'clock, the Countess left him, in order to snatch some hasty rest; but she was soon summoned back. He was awake. He had insisted on taking some oil and magnesia, although against the doctor's advice—resolute to the last. This had a most prejudicial effect, and he was dying. As he saw the Countess, he reached out his hand to her. 'Press my hand, dear friend,' he said; 'I feel myself dying.' They were his last words. He had scarcely uttered them ere he sank back; another moment, and all was over."

THE POULTRY BOOK (Orr and Co.) is a work to be issued in numbers, and promising to be popular in character. Indeed, it would be impossible to speak too highly of the representations it contains, of celebrated prize birds, drawn from life by Mr. Harrison Weir, and painted in colours under his superintendence. For ten years past, the improvement of the breed of poultry has been a subject of great interest, but though much progress has been made, much, of course, still remains to be accomplished. With information and suggestions, this work will be found replete.

THE KING'S OWN, by Captain Marryatt, forms the second volume of the re-issue in a cheap form of this most popular series of modern novels.



EXHIBITION OF THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY IN THE TRANSEPT OF THE PALACE OF INDUSTRY PARIS.



FLOODINGS IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE SCENE NEAR THE CHURCH OF SAINT AGRICOL, AT AVIGNON.—(FROM A SKETCH BY THE MARQUIS DES ISNAEDS.)



A TARTAR SCHOOL.—(FROM A DRAWING BY CARLO BOSSOLI)

INTERIOR OF A TARTAR SCHOOL.

Oh, Daniel Defoe! oh, Robinson Crusoe! much have you to answer for to the learned generally—to ethnologists and the Geographical Society in particular. Consider the mind of youth, that it is a temple, and how the durable brick thereof (you helped to set it) will still crop out through the whitewash of all after acquisitions. Ever returning to our first love, we refuse to see the infidelity of your bewitching, fair-spoken travels, but, though arrived at years of discretion, consent to forget we ever heard that they were false. Tartars! There is no Tartar but the Mogul Tartar, and Robinson is his prophet. The Tartar—we quote Crusoe—is to be found in the wilderness or deserts that lie in Karakathay, between China and Muscovy. He is generally an arrant coward, a contemptible fellow, understanding no discipline or manner of fight. His horse is a poor, lean, starved creature. He uses bows and arrows, with occasionally a kind of scymitar. His chief occupation is to rove about, hunting mutton; though a more recent authority than Crusoe (but evidently a traveller of congenial spirit) adds, that he much engages in riding on the mutton afterwards, to make it tender. But though he is so pitiful a fellow on ordinary occasions, yet, in defence of his heathenism, he is very fierce. Cham-chi-Thaungu is the name of his idol—an idol made of wood, frightful as the devil. Not to particularise all the features of Cham-chi-Thaungu, his nose is like a crooked ram's horn, and his mouth extends four-cornered, like that of a lion. He is about eight feet high, yet has no feet or legs, or any other proportion of parts; and it is very dangerous to damage the Tartar bonnet on his head.

This, for us at least, has been the one cherished idea of a Tartar, acquired in difficulty and in the privacy of a staircase from the pages of Crusoe, an idea hard either to resign or divide. We account it, indeed, one of the evils of the late war, that we have been obliged to divide the idea, and to take into consideration Tartars of quite another complexion. Need it be added, that we allude to the Tartars of the Crimea? Of such is our illustration, after a drawing by Carlo Bossoli, which we have selected from the admirable series now in course of publication by Messrs. Day and Son. Unlike their congeners of Karakathay, the costume of these new-fangled Tartars is not at all savage. Generally, in the towns, they wear, first, an undecided kind of garment, wavering between trousers and petticoat, and a tight silk or cotton jacket united to the above by a shawl girdle. Over this is the caftan, a loose gown without buttons, and innocent of collar. In the villages, a ruder costume is worn—a costume in which sheep-skin prevails; thus gratifying not only the Tartar love of warmth, but its partiality for grease. (This partiality probably led to the cultivation of sheep's tails; unless, indeed, the extraordinary abundance of this member in the Crimean animal be a natural providence.) The round lamb-skin cap is universal; though doctors and schoolmasters go dignified in turbans. The girls—we see them there mingled with the boys—are clad in properties worthy of the ballet. They wear, almost constantly, a coquettish little fez, with a flat, blue silk tassel at top; and their hair, which is plaited in fifty little tails, hangs all about their shoulders. If they are rich, they have their caps ornamented with gold coins and gold fringe; but it is a poor little maid (of course we are in town) who has not her veil embroidered with gold thread and coloured silks. Red hair they love, and dye their heads accordingly; also their nails; and when, in addition, their eyebrows are joined, by a dash of the painter's art, across their noses—that is the mode. *Nata bene*—Tartar girls never "go to service," in any Russian or colonist family whatever.

The Crimean Tartars, then, are comparatively a civilised people. Have we not heard of the ancient palace of their Khans, with its halls, its trellised galleries, its divans, its marble and gold, its gardens and fountains, only to be imagined by an oriental fancy? Alas for its silent harems! But to descend. The better sort of villages or towns boast their little shops, closed at night with wooden shutters, which, when folded down, serve as a counter by day; and here the butcher, the baker, the candlestick-maker—hatters, barbers, cotton-cleaners, and cooks—carry on a division of labour. At short intervals along the streets (so it was, at least, in the ancient and all-Eastern capital of the Khans, Baktchi-Serai, before the war) fountains shower forth their clear and refreshing streams, at which groups of Tartars perform their ablutionary duties before entering the mosque; for the Tartars of the Crimea, if in any remote time they swore by Cham-chi-Thaungu, the idol of the fatal bonnet, now abjure him utterly. They are good Mussulmans, and the doctrine and word of the Prophet are taught in the school on page 449 of this journal. Indeed, the Tartars of the south coast have a Mussulman aspect; that is to say, they are rather Turkish of countenance; if, indeed, that is the right way to put it—for what are the Turks but Tartars beautified through the amenities of more advanced civilisation and the mingling of Caucasian blood?

One thing must have occurred to the attentive reader—that the little people in the picture have by this time learned lessons not to be found in their accustomed "tasks." War is said to be the pioneer of advancement to all nations; and the Tartar scholar can scarcely have looked upon such a gathering of armies and such a struggle, with its auxiliary science, its tramroads and railways, without having some new ideas driven into his soldierly Mongolian skull. So far, his is the benefit; so far, let him be thankful, and amend.

RETURN OF SIR WILLIAM WILLIAMS OF KARS.

We announce with the most cordial satisfaction the safe return to his native country of Sir William Williams. It is but the echo of public opinion when we declare that this gallant officer has displayed higher qualities for military command than any other British soldier engaged in the Russian war. It is not necessary that a military chieftain should be of consummate skill in managing the details of any particular branch of the service, but, above all things, he must possess the commanding mind. Fertile in resource, patient in mishap, cautious in defence, daring in attack, of unflinching purpose, with quick insight into the character of his agents, and of unbounded influence over all around him, the commander may hope to bring the operations in which he is engaged to a successful issue; but without these qualities special technical skill will prove but of little avail. Such a commander General Williams has proved himself to be; and his worth is not lost upon his countrymen.

General Williams had no sooner set his foot on the English shore (he landed at Dover) than he was met with acclamations. Banquets in his honour are everywhere in preparation, especially a grand dinner, to be held at the Reform Club, at which Lord Palmerston will be invited to preside.

PARENTAL LOVE.—At Canterbury, a man and woman have been sentenced to imprisonment for cruelty to their illegitimate child, aged eight years. They had tied up the child naked, so that she stood on one leg, the other leg being fastened to the bed-post, in which posture she was kept many hours. They had also beaten her with a rope an inch thick, until her back was "like a piece of raw beef."

THE PEABODY BANQUET.—A fête of a very interesting character, and at the present moment of some political significance, was given on Friday week at the Crystal Palace. Mr. Peabody, the American millionaire, with the laudable motives of a conciliator, to which he was undoubtedly prompted as much by inclination and good feeling as by his great mercantile interests, gave a magnificent entertainment to Mr. Dallas, the American Minister, and his family, with a large circle of his fellow-citizens, to meet whom he also invited many of the English nobility and gentry. A private gallery was partitioned off in the concert-room for the accommodation of Mr. Peabody's guests, who afterwards proceeded to an elegant saloon, where dinner was served for about two hundred persons. The speeches delivered at the banquet were marked in general by great delicacy and discretion. The remarks of Mr. Dallas were courteous and judicious, and the other guests who addressed the company were, for the most part, diplomatically careful in the avoidance of delicate and unwelcome topics; but we must entirely acquit Sir Joseph Paxton of having in the smallest degree evaded the full expression of his opinion on the vexed question of our difficulties with the United States. He displayed a much greater amount of pro-American feeling than did our Transatlantic cousins themselves. The Lord Mayor, indeed, had to remind Sir Joseph, in a friendly way, that the assembly was a private one; and that political subjects would be best avoided. After the banquet the company adjourned to the Pompeian Court, which was lighted up for the occasion, and where the attendance of the blind Italian minstrel, M. Picco, had been secured for their gratification.

PALMER'S TRIAL.

AN EXTRA NUMBER AND A HALF OF THE
ILLUSTRATED TIMES,

CONTAINING A Full Report of this Important Trial, and a large Number of Engravings, embracing Scenes in the Central Criminal Court; Views in Newgate; the Sheriff's Dinner; Portraits of the Judges, Counsel, and Chief Witnesses; and Representations of every Scene and Object of interest connected with this exciting event—was published on May 27, (26 pages), price 3d.

148, Fleet Street, London.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1856

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM.

MR. ROEBUCK, though somewhat acrid and cynical, is bold and honest, as well as able, and his accession to the chair of the Administrative Reform Association has made it once more a little talked about. No doubt, it has been a great failure hitherto: no doubt, its speakers occasionally made complaints (which would be painful if they were not ludicrous) of public neglect. But, at the same time, there is a very general feeling that administrative reform is the reform which the age most requires; and hence, the Association claims attention. The reasons of its want of progress are not difficult to find. The higher classes, mercantile and all, have held aloof. The war was against it. The oratory was indifferent. And we think we must add that the Liberals of the Manchester school have been a little jealous of the movement. It is amusing to independent observers like ourselves to see the "Morning Star," for example, ridiculing it. At bottom, the cause of Manchester and of the Association is the same. For we take it, that both powers want to see the government of the country made a little more open. They want to shake the prestige of the great (chiefly Whig) oligarchs. They think that we should have able men, if we had the way to power made more accessible. But as long as they persist in being jealous of each other, they will do nothing for themselves or the cause either. On the contrary, they will strengthen the cause they dislike; and the world will persist in treating their efforts as the irregular results of mere personal ambition. A more generous and large-minded policy is required from men who aspire to change the system of government in a country like England. The task is no joke; and the worst of it is, that the difficulty lies in the character of the people a great deal. The English, as a general rule, are indifferent to political power. It is not so often an ambition among private men to meddle with it, as it is to make a fortune, or buy an estate. So long as their liberty is safe, and their property increasing, they acquiesce in being governed by the persons who have it in hand; and these persons have every advantage in their favour besides the fundamental one.

The fact is, the oligarchic exclusiveness in government, of which these Reformers complain, is the fruit of a long course of events, and is the result of our mixed system of political life, which it suits. It is based on the property of the magnates who exercise it chiefly, which property has secured office. An aristocracy of office would be the best phrase to describe it. The same system gradually grew up in ancient Rome, and was one cause of its becoming a despotism: the class of *nobles* as distinct from *patrii*. These exactly illustrate the position of our RUSSELLS, CAVENDISHES, SEYMOURS, and HOWARDS, and their relation to ancient England. They are not high ancient nobles exactly, but rose on the ruins of the feudal noblesse, which is nearly extinct. JANE SEYMOUR was found sitting on old HARRY's knee. JOHN RUSSELL, a decent Dorsetshire squire, had a knack of conversation, and so on—and the families of these persons have gradually risen in consequence. The misfortune of having to go out of the regular lines of our monarchs, and bring in a family from abroad, was the next bit of luck that fell to the new nobility. And being thus born in the purple (tape) they have alone been enabled to get the early familiarity with politics which is so important. Then, they never really fought democracy, or attempted to resist it by force. They used it in the orthodox Whig way, contented to know that they could still keep office. The old nobility might brag that in reality they always produced the ablest men, like a BYRON or a MANSFIELD. But what of that? The oligarchs did not go in for genius, any more than genius went in for them. But they were usually of enough ability to keep things rubbing on somehow; and it is well known that England's prosperity does not depend on her Government,—indeed, it gets on precisely in proportion as Government lets it alone. Whatever Government does is worse done than everything else. But you cannot ruin an industrious people, protected by a sea. You may lose an army or so—which you bury—or you may make your diplomacy such a mess as to hover on the verge of a foolish war—the last being almost our case at this present instant; but the country is rich and populous, and can afford to lose soldiers; and when the foolish diplomacy has gone a certain length, the country steps in and stops it. Then we can try a new combination of our oligarchs, if things get very bad. For instance, once every five years or so, Lord JOHN is found out to be unfit for great affairs, and dismissed; but, after a lapse, people again begin to think there is something in him, and try him again; and by this plan we get a certain attractive novelty. For life no human being would submit to him, but we can stand him for a few years, rather than run the risk (by a row) of bringing the funds down.

Now, how can our Reformers change a system like this? That is the point on which Mr. ROEBUCK is going to help them. He says that they must try the House of Commons; and certainly, if they can get up a party there capable of making a hearty, vigorous, and very able onslaught on the "system," they may do something, and secure a large support outside. But this process requires men, and requires an adaptation of men to constituencies. It is obvious, for instance, that ST. PAUL would have no chance against the RUSSELLS at Tavistock; and we much fear that, when the Reformers get their man, they would not keep him, but that he would join CHISHOLM ANSTAY at Hong Kong. So many and so various are the difficulties of this reform! Your able man must be a speaker, or he is of no use in a House of Commons; he must be tolerably well off, or he cannot afford the time for Parliament; and he must be as incorruptible as BRUTUS, or he will be sent to Hong Kong. He must be "three gentlemen in one," and half a gentleman is a fair proportion, as times go.

And yet—whether we choose to be mirthful or melancholy about the fact—there is the fact, that we must have a better administration. If we do not, why, it is only a question of a run of "hard times," and we shall have a hubbub again: for, in spite of the present lull in agitation (Chartism having lost its head, and Manchester, through the war, its tail), none of the really great difficulties of the

country are being met. The Scottish miners have ended a "strike," with rage in their hearts; and it is no consolation to know that the McBUGGS, their masters, are buying out LINDSAYS and PRINGERS. On the contrary, as McBUGG will marry somehow into the "system," by and by, it is, in many respects, a hopeless phenomenon. The bores of the soil are labouring away none the more cheerily, because it does not happen to suit the political book to parade their "condition" through the papers. But what does the reader say to the latest illustration of our administrative system in the American revolution, without being able to hit on a plan to adjust it. About as many years we have been blessed with Mr. CRAMPTON's presence at Washington, and are just finding out that he is an incompetent noodle. Of course, this is only the latest fact of the kind. There were more yesterday; there will be more to-morrow. It is no wonder that a charitable public looks a degree more interested at a stir by the Administrative Reform Association. Mr. ROEBUCK is a clever man, but he has his work to do. It is a work which requires more than a society—it demands a generation! When that is acknowledged, we shall be more hopeful than we are just now.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON is about to receive, as a present, the catechism which he studied in his infancy when he resided at the chateau of Arenenberg.

CHRISTIANS have been, for the first time, admitted to join the procession in the Bazaar, and to kiss the hand of the Sultan.

CARDINAL PATRIZZI, the Papal legate at Paris, brought with him, as a present for the Imperial baby, a fragment of our Saviour's cradle, studded with diamonds and a golden rose for the Empress.

GOVERNOR SIR G. BARKLY has arrived in this country from Jamaica, and after receiving instructions from her Majesty's Government, will proceed to his new government in Australia.

PALMER'S "BOOK" was made up to win £25,000 or to lose £400, by the Derby. His horse was Yellow Jack, so that he would have lost.

MR. AND MRS. HOWARD PAUL have been giving their comic and musical entertainments, "Patch Work," with great success, in Birmingham. Among the "novelties" of this entertainment, Mrs. Howard Paul gives an imitation of Madame Rachel in "La Marseillaise," and also sings in the same key as Tamburlik, "Il Mio Tesoro," an achievement which meets with vast favour from large audiences.

MADAME HISTORI has sent from London 1,000f. for the sufferers from the inundations, and she writes to say that she will be happy to give a representation for their benefit on her return to Paris in August.

THE HARROW SPEECH DAY is fixed for Thursday, June 25, when the first stone will be laid of the new aisle to be attached to the School Chapel, in commemoration of those Harrow men who fell in the late war.

THE SULTAN has made a magnificent present to Miss Nightingale. This lady is expected to arrive in England early next month.

A LITTLE GIRL, ten years of age, was killed by hailstones, during a recent storm in India.

JENNY LIND GOLDSCHMIDT announces her last performances in this country for Wednesday, the 25th, and Monday, the 30th, the "Creation" being selected for the earlier, and a miscellaneous concert for the latest of the performances.

FOUR AUSTRIAN SOLDIERS were shot at Jassy, on the 31st ult., for the murder of a Jew and his wife and child.

EARL DUCIE lately made application to the Emperor of the French for aid to the British and Foreign Sailors' Society. His Majesty forthwith contributed the sum of 1,000f.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL has presented a petition to the Lord Chancellor, praying that Mr. W. W. Ward may be "exonerated" from his office as one of the coroners for the county of Stafford.

THE KING OF OUDH has arrived in England.

A DEPLORABLE DUELLING AFFAIR has taken place at Valencia, between an officer of the staff and the Vice-Consul of England. The latter was run through the body with a fencing-sword, and there is little hope of saving him. The officer was also wounded, but slightly.

A GENTLEMAN complains in the advertising columns of the "Times"—"I have the most beautiful horse in England, but not the most beautiful lady. Your silence pains me deeply. I cannot forget you. M."

THE POLISH REFUGEES residing in Paris have been invited by Prince Adam Czartoryski to assemble at his mansion and sign a protest against the amnesty recently accorded by the Emperor of Russia.

THE SENATE OF TURIN has voted £25,000 for a monument to the late King Charles Albert.

VESSELS are continually arriving at Spithead from the East, with detachments from the army.

SEVENTY THOUSAND MASONS are to rebuild Sebastopol after the withdrawal of the Allied forces.

THE HORSE GUARDS authorities have consented to the married non-commissioned officers and soldiers in barracks being provided with separate accommodation for themselves and families, instead of being quartered in the same rooms with the private soldiers. This most wholesome provision was also most necessary.

THE SPANISH HOUSE OF BOURBON renews its ancient relations with Bavaria, by giving one of its royal daughters to one of Bavaria's royal sons. In other words, Prince Adalbert is going to marry the Infanta Donna Amelia.

THE SALE OF HORSES IN SCUTARI is still continuing. It has been good enough, about 2,100 horses having been sold at an average price of £16. The Turks have lately likewise bought a number of French horses, especially for the artillery.

THE HON. J. D. BLIGH, invisible representative of the English Government at the Court of Hanover, has been recalled at his own request.

WHILE FRANCE has suffered so much from excess of rain, Austria has been in great need of it. The people at Vienna have been "almost broiled alive" by the excessive heat.

DR. CULLEN has published another of those tremendous pastorals for which he has become famous. It is, as usual, a denunciation of the quiet proselytising tendency of the Protestants.

HEITZ, notoriously connected with the enlistment differences, has been committed for trial at Philadelphia, charged with obtaining money under false pretences.

THE DUKE OF NORMANDY, soi-disant son of Louis XVI., long since believed to have died in London, is at this moment a prisoner in the hands of the police at Rotterdam. His real name is alleged to be Nauendorf, a watchmaker by trade, from Crosseon on the Oder, and a Prussian subject.

THE WIFE OF A FIREMAN in an iron foundry at Doncaster attempted to commit suicide, a few days ago, by swallowing some vermin poison; medical aid saved her.

THE ANGLLO-ITALIAN LEGION is to be broken up. About one-half (1,500) of the men have agreed to take passage to a British colony; the other 1,500 will return to Italy.

A SUPPLEMENTARY ARMY ESTIMATE of £1,500 has been issued for the gratuitous education of twenty Queen's cadets, the sons of officers who have died on service, and have left their families in reduced circumstances.

AN ELDERLY MAN, well dressed, threw himself from Shakspeare's Cliff on Friday week. The body has not been identified.

A SOLDIER, wearing a Crimean medal, was found drowned in the Thames on Monday. His belt bore the number 1,302.

ANOTHER ROYAL MARRIAGE is on the tapis. King Kamehamela, Sovereign of the Sandwich Islands, is about to espouse Miss Rooke, granddaughter of that much esteemed settler, Mr. Young.

THE TRIAL OF WILLIAM DOVE, charged with poisoning his wife, Harriet Dove, at Leeds, by strychnine, is fixed for Wednesday, the 16th of July.

THE ACT FOR THE SURVEY OF GREAT BRITAIN is to continue in force till the end of the year 1861.

GIOVANNI RUGGEO, lately tried in Florence for reading and circulating the Bible, has been acquitted.

A MONUMENT to the memory of Lillywhite, the celebrated cricketer, who died in August, 1854, has just been finished, and is to be placed over the grave of the deceased in Highgate Cemetery.

THE QUEEN will honour the Marquis and Marchioness of Westminster with her presence at Grosvenor House, on the occasion of a fête to be given by the Marchioness on the 26th instant.

SIXTY MEMBERS OF THE SHOCKBROCK BRIGADE, clad in red, astonished the caged inhabitants of the Zoological Gardens with a visit, on Monday.

SIR COLIN CAMPBELL is expected to arrive in Glasgow on the 30th inst.

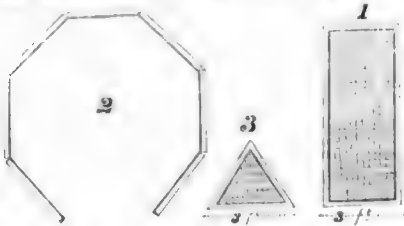
To recommend any one to visit an entertainment which has enjoyed four years of uninterrupted success, may appear superfluous; there may, however, be some among our readers who have not seen the "Olio of Oddities" at all; many who have not heard the new song. To them we can promise two hours' pleasant laughter and amusement with Mr. Woodin.

WINDOW GARDENING.—NO. 11. A BOWER TO BE COVERED WITH CLIMBING ANNUALS.

It is not stepping far beyond the limits which we have assigned to ourselves in this series of articles on room and window gardening, to suggest the erection of a little floral apartment in some convenient situation within the garden of the suburban villa. A cool retreat—filled with the dewy freshness of bright young foliage, making a soft twilight sweet with the perfume of flowers within, while their gay colours cause its exterior to glitter like the enamelled and jewelled encasement of a reliquary, has always been a favorite spot in the sunny time of summer. "My lady's bower," in the olden time, formed the chief ornament of the garden at that bright season; and few of the quaint old poets and quainter old illuminators, but have minutely described its charms with pen or pencil, in the old romance, where its associations constantly play a conspicuous part.

In most old-fashioned gardens of much more recent date, the tradition of the "bower" was still preserved in the form of stately summer-houses and pavilions, rendered more than complete with windows and even fire-places. But in the present day the summer-house, in any shape, has become a rarity, and the early "bower," as well as the later alcove, arbour, moss-house, grotto, &c., have alike disappeared from the plans of a modern landscape gardener. Perhaps a better understanding of the climate has had as much to do with the matter as change of taste; and as regards permanent structures in the way of maisonnette, summer-house, &c., the omission of such additions to our garden features is scarcely to be regretted. But the creation of what may be termed an impromptu bower, to come in, as it were, with the summer months and disappear along with them, is quite another affair, which might be re-introduced with agreeable effect, and when successfully contrived would form a very graceful addition to garden scenery, whether extensive or confined. The recent introduction of several new climbing plants of rapid growth, and bearing showy flowers, has rendered the construction of a summer retreat, of the description alluded to, a matter of very easy realisation, and that, too, in an incredibly short space of time, if commenced in due season.

In order to complete such a structure in an easy and inexpensive manner, the amateur gardener may adhere to the following directions, if his own ingenuity suggests nothing better:—Let our amateur himself, or a jobbing carpenter, if he be not handy with saw and plane, make seven frames, about six feet six inches high by three feet wide (see diagram No. 1), and let them be tightly covered



with the cheap zinc wire netting, which may be procured at 4d. per square yard, at the warehouse in the New Road. When placed upright, in a position to form a ground-plan like diagram No. 2, ascertain the proportions which will be required to form a roof of eight smaller frames of the form of diagram No. 3, which will, of course, be three feet wide at the base of the triangle; forming a sharp or more depressed angle upwards according

to the taste of the rustic architect. These frames are to be covered with the same kind of wire netting as the others; and when the side frames are fixed in their position, by means of eight internal uprights driven firmly into the ground, and which may be either smoothly planed, like the frames, or formed of branches simply barked, then the pieces forming the roof may be added; either separately or after having been fastened together in the form of a

large umbrella, which last will probably be the easiest course to pursue; and the roof so put on may easily be fixed in its position by means of the more screws. These wire frames need not be strongly made, as they will have no strain or weight to bear. They may, indeed, be very slight, provided the eight upright stakes or stays be pretty strong and fixed. We have supposed the entrance to be dressed up with a little rustic branch work, which can be easily managed just now, for it is the season of the bark harvest. The amateur architect of the impromptu power may now take a stroll among the fields, and he will see the venerable monarch of many a hedge-row lying prostrate in the young spring grass, stripped of his hoary robe of silvery gray, and the vast trunk and far-reaching limbs bleached and bare, like a grim skeleton, the gnarled and gnarled branches stretched wildly forth, as though they had died in the act of useless supplication. The hewers are busy with the last act of the old comedy—lopping the forest of branches from the great trunk to prepare it for the timber-yard, and making the lesser limbs into faggots for firewood or other ornamental purposes. The rustic architect may select among these lesser limbs such pieces as are most likely to suit his purposes, and will find, in endless variety, pieces varying by their straightness for rustic columns, or others forming tangled turns and fanciful irregularities, precisely adapted to the work he is contemplating. An advantage in the bargain may soon be struck for a cart-load of this refuse, and a neighbouring farmer will be glad to cart it for a few shillings at the present idle season, when there is but little for his team to do.

The framework of the bower being complete, even the dressing up of the entrance with the antler-like trophies of the fallen oak, the next step will be the addition of the plants or seeds destined to clothe it with foliage and flowers. For this purpose make a trench about twelve inches deep round the structure, and fill it with rich soil, such as is kept prepared for potting purposes, in order that a stimulus may be given to the rapid and luxuriant growth of the plants. In the centre of each compartment one leading plant should be placed; on one side of the entrance a Cobaea scandens, on the other a couple or three plants of Tropaeolum canariensis; next, a sprinkling of mixed major convolvulus seed; then, on either side, a large pot with a plant of calceolaria pubescens, which we recommend keeping in the pot to prevent the roots spreading, as it is difficult to get rid of the suckers if they are allowed to get into the open ground. Of the common tall nasturtium tropaeolum majus, a few seeds may be scattered in the trench, and any remaining gaps filled up with more tropaeolum canariensis, and a seed or two of the common climbing bean—the "scarlet runner" of the kitchen gardens, the vivid blossoms of which will produce a fine effect among the others. And the effect must be sparingly used, or the common character of the foliage may betray the vulgarity of its origin. About the entrance, a few sweet peas and missionette seeds may be sprinkled to enrich the lower part of the floral composition, and give the finishing touch of perfume to the retreat. We have supposed the entrance flanked by two fine hardy fuchsias, preserved through the winter in tubs, to give it a final touch of importance.

Such a retreat, when the ladies are at work at their crochet or guipure within its perfumed shade, and children are amusing themselves with the task of training the luxuriant climbers, forms an episode in garden scenery which it is well worth the trouble to produce. In a few weeks it will be nearly covered with the rapidly-growing plants we have named, which retain their luxuriance till late in the autumn, when they may be removed, and the framework of the structure laid aside, to do duty again in the ensuing season.



MR. WOODIN IN HIS VARIOUS CHARACTERS.—SEE PREVIOUS PAGE.)

A CORNER FOR THE CURIOUS.—NO. 11.
THE SCRIPTURAL MUSEUM RECENTLY IN HART STREET,
BLOOMSBURY.

It has often struck us, when we have been engaged in the antiquarian and other departments of the British Museum, that it is somewhat remarkable so many thousands of people pass through objects of the greatest interest, without apparently taking the least notice of things, which many would travel miles in order to have an opportunity of viewing. Some ascribe this to the ignorance of the great bulk of visitors to the national collection. We are, however, inclined to attribute it to the circumstance that the various objects are not marked with lettered descriptions sufficiently distinct and simple, and yet of such length as to enable the multitude to look upon those substantial historical illustrations in the same manner as

stance, we see the quotation from Matthew, chap. x., v. 29, "And are not two sparrows sold for a farthing?" &c. Here is seen the identical Roman coin in use in the East when our Saviour made the above remark. In connection with shoes are the various passages connected with them, such as the following—"Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground."

The rude musical instruments, representations of which we have here engraved, have been collected by modern travellers, and are but little changed from the ancient forms. All these are arranged close to the texts which they respectively illustrate. The drum or timbrel marked A, is made of thin baked clay, something in the shape of a bottle, with parchment stretched over the wider part. On being struck with the finger, this instrument makes a remarkably loud sound. The harp, so often alluded to in the history of the children of Israel, is in like manner shown of different dates, yet nevertheless it appears to be but little changed. Amongst the chief matters, are a number of drawings of places of note, made by Mr. Bonomi on the spot; a large model of the Temple, in which are arranged the various altars of sacrifice; and other objects, to but few of which we can at present refer.

Sir Walter Scott, in the "Antiquary," describes the mother of the fisherman, who is introduced into that tale, as sitting twirling the distaff on the floor, surrounded by the little children. Many are yet living in rural parts of this country who can remember having seen this primitive method of spinning in use. In Queen Elizabeth's days the dames and maidens of England wiled away many an hour with the distaff, and provided goodly stores of thread, which in due time were handed to the weaver, and made into the various articles required for domestic use. In course of time, the distaff gave place to the spinning-wheel, and then, as if by magic, the application of steam-moved machinery superseded the spinning-wheel, and that so completely, that the wheel at which the grandmothers of the present generation wrought is almost as rarely to be met with amongst us as the distaff, which had continued to be in use during part of the ancient British, the Saxon, Norman, and Middle Age periods of England. Amid the whirl, buzz, and distraction of that wondrous scene, a Manchester spinning factory, it is curious to think of the change which a few years have brought forth.

The distaff was the instrument which wrought the materials for the robes of the Egyptian kings, and for the "little coat" which Hannah made for Samuel; by it, too, were wrought the cloths and other fabrics used in Solomon's temple.

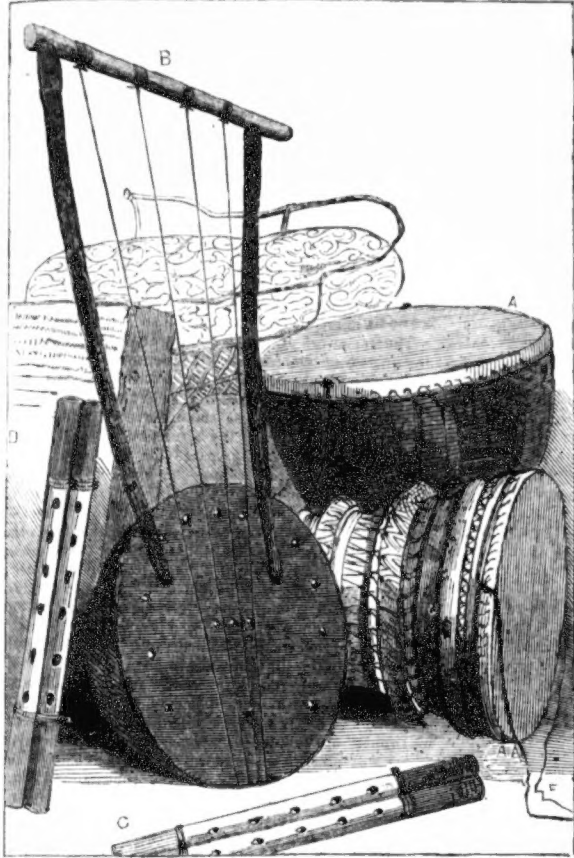
Representations of weavers' looms, of a very simple construction, may be met with amongst the Egyptian, Assyrian, and Nineveh sculptures. At the present time, in such parts of the territories of those peoples as are still inhabited, the old-fashioned distaff and various shuttles are in use unchanged. In the neighbourhood of Damascus and other parts of the Holy Land, boys and young girls may be seen working with the distaff in precisely the same manner as they did three or four thousand years ago. It will be seen, by reference to the engraving, that nothing can be more simple than this instrument, which is a sort of wooden skewer, round which the flax is wrapped; it is then spun on the ground in the same manner as a boy's top, and the thread wrought off, and wound upon the reel shown in the foreground of the engraving.

"Querns," or stone hand-mills, of various sizes, similar to that shown in the engraving, have been repeatedly found in connection with Roman, Saxon, and other ancient remains in this country. They are still to be met with in constant use over the greater part of India, in Africa, and also those districts of the East which are more particularly associated with Holy Writ. It may be worth while to mention that this description of mill is an improvement upon the method of simply crushing the corn laid on a flat stone with another held in the hand. The "Quern," or hand-mill, is a hard stone, roughly rounded, and partly hollowed, into which another stone, which has a handle, is loosely fitted. The corn required to be ground is placed in the hollow receptacle, and the inner stone is moved rapidly round, and in course of time, by immense labour, the wheat, &c., is ground into flour.

In some instances, the mills are wrought by two handles, and the stone is turned rapidly round by a person on each side. The Scripture prophecies mention that of two women grinding at the mill, one shall be left and

the other taken. The two-handed mill explains the meaning of this passage.

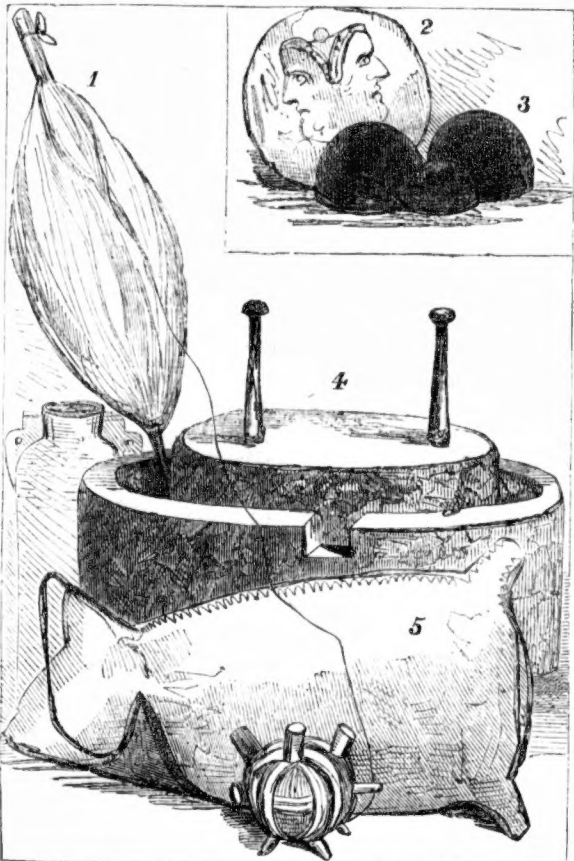
The great utility of such a museum as that at present under notice, is to explain and render consistent many passages of Scripture, which might seem, in consequence of the peculiarity of our translation, to have been erroneously rendered. For instance, when we come to see the wine-bottle of the East, which is simply a skin sewed as shown in the engraving, we are made sufficiently aware of the foolishness of "putting new wine into old bottles"—else the bottles break and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish."



A. DRUM, OR TIMBREL, OF BAKED POTTER'S CLAY.—A.A. DRUM IN USE IN THE EAST.—B. HARP.—C. LUTES.—D. INSCRIBED STONE.—E. SANDALS.

they would engravings in a book or newspaper. The skilful author draws attention to his pictures by a telling line or two of letter-press. In like manner, those who have entrusted to them the arrangement of a museum which is intended for the instruction of the million, should leave no means untried to awaken the attention of even the most unthinking to the objects which are exhibited.

Feeling sensible of the omissions above mentioned, we were gratified a short while ago with a view of the museum which bears the title at the heading of this article, and which is intended for the formation of

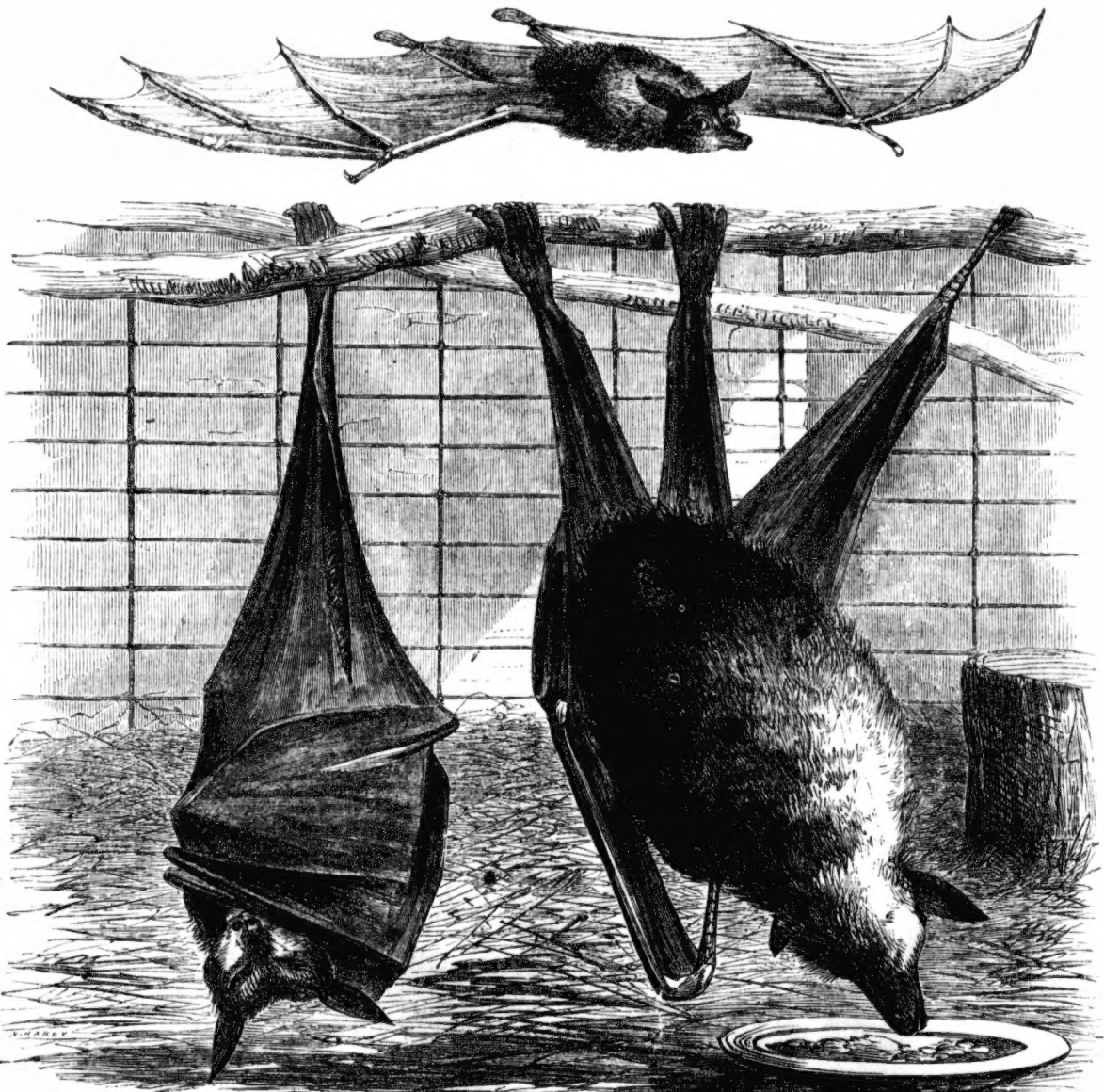


1. DISTAFF.—2. ROMAN FARTHING.—3. STONE MONEY WEIGHTS.—4. HAND MILL.—5. EASTERN WINE AND WATER BOTTLES.

a gallery of objects that expressly illustrate the various passages in Scripture. It is proposed to collect here, maps, plans, and views, &c., of interesting parts of the East; models, buildings, fruit, flowers, animals, implements, dresses, musical instruments, specimens of minerals, waters, antiquities, &c., to show—for instance, from sculptures or casts—as far as possible, the domestic habits of the dwellers in the Holy Land in former times. Each object in the museum has been ticketed with the text which it explains, and it is surprising to notice how absorbed visitors become, in the comparatively few specimens now collected, by this judicious method of ticketing. For in-



THE SUSSEX WING OF THE ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.
(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



FLYING-FOXES, IN THE GARDENS OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, REGENT'S PARK.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

THE ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.

OPENING OF THE SUSSEX WING.

SOME two months ago I sent you an account of my visit to the Royal Institution in the Gray's Inn Road, and expressed myself much pleased with the institution, and the manner in which it was conducted. Of course, this account attracted the notice of the directors and others connected with the Hospital, and many and various were their endeavours to penetrate the *incognito* of the writer of the article; but as "I'm nothing if not unknown," I am proud to say that their efforts signally failed, and I could turn to and abuse them fondly at this moment, without the slightest suspicion of vacillation. Such, however, is not my task. How they have progressed, or what has happened to them in the interval, I know not; but, seeing the advertisement of the opening of the New Sussex Wing in the "Times," I repaired to the spot at the time appointed, and now report proceedings. My first notion connected with the ceremony was—boys. There they were in scores: butcher-boys, baker-boys, grocer-boys, vagabond-boys of no calling or profession—all gathered together at the first rumour that something was "up," surrounding the building and waiting in intense eagerness for the fan to commence. For some time these sportive youths were left to their own diversions, remarking on each other's personal appearance and costume; inquiring the name of the hatter of each passer-by; getting up a little amateur sparring-match, and such innocent pastimes. The fact of the newly-erected wing being gaily decorated with flags, also afforded them room both for reflection and comment, and their remarks upon the various designs were choice and pungent. Between one and two o'clock, a band arrived opposite the entrance of the hospital, and commenced playing various national airs; and about this time, your contributor, learning that the real business of the day would not commence for upwards of half an hour, adjourned to a neighbouring hostelry in quest of luncheon. On my return, at two o'clock, I found the Stewards of the day and the Committee of the Hospital assembling in the board-room, and shortly afterwards, the whole party, consisting almost entirely of Freemasons, proceeded to inspect the newly-finished wards. These wards are of great length, and capitolly pitched as to height. A small sleeping-place is partitioned off, at the end of each, for the nurse; and by the arrangement of the curtains, every patient wishing or requiring to be kept alone, can at once be isolated from the rest. A very excellent prayer was then offered up by the Rev. J. R. Owen, the Chaplain of the Hospital, imploring the blessing of Heaven on the institution, and the new wing when then formally proclaimed to be open, by Lord Leigh, the Lord-Lieutenant of Warwickshire, and Provincial Grandmaster, who acted as president of the day. All then returned to the board-room, where refreshments were provided, after doing ample justice to which the procession was again formed, and, preceded by the band, the Stewards and the Governors of the hospital, made its way across the Gray's Inn Road, until it arrived opposite the new wing, where it was received with great cheering by a large crowd, which had by this time assembled. At this spot a temporary platform was erected, and the members of the procession having ascended it, the Chairman of the Hospital Committee proceeded, in a set speech, to explain to Lord Leigh the circumstances under which the wing had been erected, stating that, soon after the death of the Duke of Sussex, it was determined, at a public meeting, to perpetuate his memory; and that, after much deliberation, it was thought that the best course would be to build an additional wing to this hospital, as an institution in which much interest was felt by the Masonic body, of which his late Royal Highness had been Grand Master. To this harangue Lord Leigh made a reply, which I could not hear, but which, I presume, was suitable, as it was vastly cheered by the persons in his immediate vicinity, and at a given signal the statue of the Duke of Sussex, which occupies a niche in the centre of the wing, was uncovered. This statue, which has been modelled by the eminent sculptor, Mr. John Thomas, is said to be an excellent resemblance. Let into the wing is also a stone tablet, on which is the following inscription:—

"Blessed is the man that provideth for the poor and needy; the Lord shall deliver him in the time of trouble." Psalm xli.

AS
A MEMORIAL,
In strict conformity with
The tenor of the life of His late
Royal Highness
PRINCE AUGUSTUS FREDERIC, DUKE OF SUSSEX,
And, therefore, most fitting
To perpetuate the memory of
His many virtues, this
WING
To the Royal Free Hospital was erected,
In the nineteenth year of the reign of
Her Majesty Queen Victoria."

Immediately on the uncovering of the statue the band struck up "God Save the Queen," and the proceedings terminated. At the banquet, which was held in Freemasons' Hall, at six o'clock, the chair was taken by Lord Leigh, who was supported by the Earl of Zetland, the Grand Master of England, Lord Denman, Rev. J. R. Owen, Mr. Alderman Spiers, of Oxford, Mr. Pritchard, the High Bailiff of Southwark, and other gentlemen holding high rank in the Masonic body. On the removal of the cloth, the chairman, who seemed an exceedingly good tempered, unpretending young man, rose, and proposed the health of "The Queen," in that usual round-about, vacillating English, common to nearly all speakers at public dinners. The announcement that her Majesty had forwarded, through Colonel Phillips, a cheque for £100, was met with great applause. The Duke of Cambridge also sent £10, and Colonel Maconald, in remitting the money, expressed a desire "that a receipt might be sent." I think the speaking was the worst it was ever my bad fortune to hear. The Chairman, in proposing "Success to the Royal Free Hospital," favoured the company with long extracts from the report, a copy of which was lying before every one; and Lord Zetland declared he had the highest gratification in proposing the "Memory of the late Duke of Sussex" (a doubtful compliment, surely!), and stuttered and stopped in a most uncomfortable manner. The dinner was excellent, and the wines far above the stuff usually served out on such occasions. The toastmaster, a tall thin man, who balanced himself on his toes and waved a long piece of paper, as though it were a Field-Marshal's baton, was a study; and the musical arrangements, under the direction of Mr. Donald Kinn, gave every satisfaction. I must particularly notice a new acquisition to the concert-room, a Madame Ella Henderson, who sang a ballad, called "The Charm," most delightfully, and obtained a tremendous encore.

FLYING FOXES.

OUR readers may have heard of these extraordinary animals, with heads like foxes and wings like bats measuring three feet or so in length; which move, when not in flight, in a way much resembling the stork, and have the faculty of suspending themselves by the feet like monkeys. In this position they will cling all day to the branches of the banyan tree, and when the shades of evening fall, spread their wings, and repair to the banks of some Indian river, where they drink, like swallows, while flying. Among the latest curiosities that have been added to the interesting collection in the charming gardens of the Zoological Society in Regent's Park, are the specimens of the Flying Fox, or Pteropus, the largest of the fruit-eating bats of India, which are represented in our engraving on another page. They were presented to the Society by Captain Nesbit, who brought them over to this country. They feed readily from the hands of their keeper, and seem sensible of any kindness shown to them. We should mention that the first digit of the wing terminates in a hooked claw, with which the animal can grip firmly.

BRIGANDAGE IN GREECE.—Brigandage on the road from Athens to the Pireas has assumed such a character that martial law is about to be proclaimed. In the meantime, even the transit of letters is suspended, though hopes are entertained that in a few days the communication may be again opened. Brigands carrying passengers have been attacked and robbed by brigands on the road to the Pireas. A sanguinary fight recently took place between the robbers and a French patrol.

THE SCREW STEAM-TRANSPORT AAGO has been run down by a French man-of-war in the Sea of Marmora. Ship saved—no lives lost.

THE EXECUTION OF PALMER.

DURING the last few days of his existence, Palmer's general demeanour in no way changed. He took his meals regularly, and slept well. He maintained his self-possession; and the little conversation he had with those who visited him, or were in attendance upon him, evinced that his mind was somewhat subdued, but not depressed. It seems that he attended chapel in the goal twice on the Sunday preceding his execution, and these were the only occasions since his condemnation. The seat he occupied was screened from observation. The Rev. Mr. Goodacre, the chaplain of the prison, was with him at frequent intervals, and did not cease to impress upon him the futility of expecting any revision of his sentence. His brothers, George and Thomas, saw him several times during the week.

On Tuesday a beautiful Bible was received at the goal, as a present to Palmer from Mr. Sergeant Stice. The Bible was accompanied by a most affecting note from the Learned Serjeant. The Bible and the note—melancholy souvenirs—will be kept by the family of the prisoner.

On Wednesday, June 11, Palmer expressed an anxious desire to see the Rev. Mr. Atkinson, the vicar of Rugeley, who has filled that office for many years, and who was, of course, well acquainted with the family. An intimation having been given to the Rev. Gentleman, of Palmer's wish, he promptly acceded to it, and at once proceeded to Stafford, and was admitted to his cell. The interview lasted for a considerable time, and the conversation was believed to have reference to some of the prisoner's family affairs. Palmer was a good deal affected, and appeared to evince a state of mind much more in accordance with his fearful position than he had shown at any period since his trial and condemnation. Mr. Atkinson saw him again on the following day, and they had another long and earnest conversation. The convict was also visited on the same day by his brother-in-law, Mr. Heywood.

Palmer's solicitor was extremely energetic in his endeavours to procure a reprieve, mainly on the plea of no strychnia having been found in Cook's body. In reply to his applications, Sir George Grey however stated that he could "see nothing in the points pressed upon his attention to justify his interfering with the due course of the law."

When told that Sir George Grey had refused to grant a reprieve, Palmer's face grew suddenly pale, and it was some minutes before he recovered its usual florid expression. Mr. Wright, the philanthropist, of Manchester, had two interviews with Palmer on Wednesday, and other interviews with him on the Thursday and Friday. The Rev. H. Sneyd also visited him. Each of these gentlemen endeavoured to bring the wretched man to a sense of the awful position in which he was placed. Palmer listened to everything the Rev. Gentleman and Mr. Wright said, with great attention marked by respect, but beyond this there was nothing to indicate that he was impressed by their exhortations. Palmer having spoken to the Rev. Mr. Goodacre in high terms of Mr. Davis, the Ordinary of Newgate, Mr. Goodacre communicated the fact to Mr. Davis, and that gentleman wrote to Palmer in a spirit of kindly advice. The latter wound up with a solemn but fruitless adjuration to him to confess the justice of his sentence, and so make his peace with God and man.

Like all other appeals of a similar character, this fell upon a deaf ear and a hardened heart. There was no perceptible emotion occasioned by its perusal, and probably no feeling at all was excited in the convict's mind. But to talk of making peace with his Maker, under such circumstances as those in which Palmer found himself the day before the execution, appears to be an absurdity; for his cell was never empty for any length of time—visitor succeeded visitor in rapid succession; and the mind of the wretched criminal must have been too much occupied with them and their conversation, to fix his attention upon the things that appertain to another world. The day was fully taken up by the things of this life—the night only remained for religion and repentance. And night was devoted to sleep. On Friday evening the final interview took place between Palmer and his brothers George and Thomas, who were accompanied by their sister. At this period all hope of a reprieve seemed to have passed away. Palmer appeared cheerful and serene; still there was now and then observable a slight twitching of the muscles at the corners of his mouth, and that restless play of the fingers which often seemed to occur involuntarily while he stood at the bar of the Old Bailey. The brothers took a sad farewell; the convict committing to their future care his only child; and it is rumoured that he extorted a promise from them that they would, for the sake of that child, quit their native country, and change their name. It is said that the Rev. Thomas Palmer earnestly entreated the prisoner to confess, if he were guilty, but he firmly and distinctly replied, "I have nothing to say, and nothing I shall say."

Contrary to expectation, no interview with his mother or his child took place, and it was believed that this was so by the prisoner's own desire.

In the morning, Mr. Smith, his solicitor, was summoned by telegraph from London to Stafford, at Palmer's earnest request, and he arrived there at half-past ten o'clock at night, when he had an interview with the convict, in the presence of Major Fulford, the governor of the goal.

Palmer had declined to retire to rest until Smith came, and from that circumstance and the anxiety he had shown to have him sent for, it was supposed that he had some important communication to make to him; but it was not so. On going into the cell, the Governor informed Palmer that if he had anything confidential to say on family affairs to Mr. Smith, he (the Governor) would keep it a secret. The prisoner replied that he had not, and he hoped the Governor would lose no time in publishing all he had said. He also added, all he had to say was to thank Mr. Smith for his great exertions—the officers of the prison for their kindness to him—and that Cook did not die from strychnine. Major Fulford expressed a hope that in his then awful condition he was not quibbling with the question, and urged him to say "Ay" or "No," whether or not he murdered Cook. He answered directly, that Lord Campbell "summed up for poisoning Cook by strychnine." The Governor retorted, it was of no importance how the deed was done, and asked him to say yes or no to the question.

Palmer said he had nothing more to add. He was quite easy in his conscience, and happy in his mind. This is the Governor's version of the conversation; but upon the material point, Mr. Smith stated, just after leaving the convict, that what Palmer said to him was, "I am innocent of poisoning Cook by strychnine; and all I ask is, that you will have his body examined, and that you will see to my mother and boy."

Mr. Smith promised to fulfil his last behest, and parted with the prisoner, who presented him with a book, in which he wrote in a fair hand, "The gift of Wm. Palmer, June 13, 1856." The book is headed, "The Sinner's Friend," and a prelude, to which the prisoner referred, ran thus—

"Oh! where for refuge should I flee,
If Jesus had not died for me?"

Immediately after he had parted from the prisoner, Smith wrote to a friend, as follows:—

"My interview ended in Palmer's making me pledge myself that Cook's body should be exhumed, and by Palmer's stating that he was not poisoned by strychnine. Palmer was as cool as though any ordinary question had been discussed."

"God help him!"

The convict retired to rest early in the morning, and slept two hours and a half, when he was visited again by Mr. Goodacre, the chaplain. Between five and six he took his breakfast, and made his gallows toilet with an unwavering serenity. There was no sign of repentance about him—no thought, apparently, of confession, possibly no feeling, not even the slightest, of compunction or remorse.

Breakfast over, the chaplain made his appearance in the cell, to offer the final consolations of religion to the condemned, and shortly afterwards the Sheriff and other officials came in. After a brief interval, the High-Sheriff asked him if he was prepared to admit the justice of his sentence. He replied, with the most energetic gesticulation, "No, sir, I do not; and I go to the scaffold a murdered man." He added that several persons, whose names he would not mention, were guilty of his murder, and that he could not acknowledge the justice of his sentence.

The cell of the prisoner was one of a series situate on the first floor of an oblong building, around which a light iron gallery was thrown. Almost immediately opposite the door of his cell a bridge went across to the gallery on the opposite side, and from the centre of the bridge an ornamental stair of iron descended into a large corridor on the basement storey. Here

were stationed, shortly before eight o'clock, the High-Sheriff of the county and the Under-Sheriff; Mr. W. H. Chetwynd, a magistrate of the county; Major Fulford, the governor of the jail; Mr. Hatton, the chief constable of the county; and the representatives of the press, according to the usual ceremonial about to take place. At that moment, a tall, broad-chested, elderly man, with short grey hair, and dressed in a white waistcoat, emerged from a room in the corridor, and ascending the light iron stairs, entered the condemned cell. This was the executioner, a blunderbuss residing at Dudley, named John Smith, and this was his first appearance to the convict, whom he at once proceeded to pinion in an iron cage. The High-Sheriff and the Chaplain. While the operation was being performed, Palmer betrayed no symptom of emotion, and simply requested that he might not be drawn too tightly. The High-Sheriff and the Chaplain then left the cell for a short time, and the prisoner remarked to the officers who attended him, that they would observe that he had not changed from what he had always said; and he then said, "All I have to ask of you is to carry for my child." The High-Sheriff and Chaplain again visited the cell, and thinking that the prisoner might perhaps object to say anything in the presence of the officers, they were requested to withdraw. At this moment all the preparations were complete. The unhappy man was pinioned, the executioner was standing by him, and nothing was required but the signal to move forward to the scaffold. The Chaplain, in the most solemn manner, exhorted him to admit the justice of his sentence. The prisoner firmly replied that it was not a just sentence. "Then," said the Chaplain, "your blood be upon your own head." To this observation the prisoner made no answer.

At this moment the prisoner appeared for an instant at the door of his cell, and took a cursory look at the official gentlemen waiting below to conduct him to the scaffold. He entered his cell again, and immediately afterwards the Chaplain and the High-Sheriff emerged from it, accompanied by the convict, who tripped nimbly down the stairs into the corridor, followed by the executioner. The remarkable appearance of the prisoner at this time will not be easily forgotten. Contrary to all usage, he wore the prison dress, consisting of dark gray jacket, trousers, and waistcoat, all of the coarsest description, a blue checked cotton shirt, and a pair of thick black shoes. He carried a handkerchief in one hand, of the same coarse material. At his own request, his light sandy hair had been closely cropped, which brought the whole configuration of his large round head and face into striking prominence, and, with the dress he wore, gave to his whole physique an air of singular repulsiveness which was not at all natural to him. It ought, however, to be stated that the wearing the prison dress was not intended as an indignity, but simply arose from the circumstance of his having no clothes of his own in the prison. The melancholy procession was now formed which was to conduct him to his doom. The Chaplain went first, reading the burial service, followed by the Under-Sheriff, then by the High-Sheriff, carrying their wands of office, next by Palmer, then by the executioner, and finally by Major Fulford, the governor of the prison, Mr. Hatton, the chief constable, and several of the officers of the goal; and in this way he was escorted to the scaffold, amid the tolling of the prison bell. His bearing in these last moments of his life elicited the amazement of all who witnessed it. As he passed Major Fulford, who was waiting to fall into the procession, he bowed to him in an easy off-hand manner, and then stopped for an instant to shake hands with one of the officials of the prison whom he recognised. He marched along with a light, jaunty step; but the expression of his mouth, and the pallor with which his features were suffused, indicated the deep current of mental emotion which he strove in vain to conceal. The distance he had to traverse from his cell to the scaffold was very considerable, and included three short flights of stairs, but his step never for an instant faltered. As the procession reached the entrance of the prison, Mr. Wright, the philanthropist, who was standing near, stepped back to allow it to pass; the convict bowed courteously to him, and then walked lightly up the steps leading to the scaffold, and of his own accord placed himself under the beam. He was received with a deafening round of curses, shouts, howlings, oaths, and execrations, from a portion of the assembled crowd. Cries, shrieks, groans, arose from the raging mob.

Palmer cast just one look at the vast multitude around him. After a brief prayer with the Chaplain, he turned to the hangman, who at once proceeded to adjust the rope round the culprit's neck, and was about to retire from the scaffold when he seemed to remember that he had not drawn the white cap over his face. He returned to do so, and then the convict shook hands with him and bade him good-bye. An instant elapsed before the bolt was withdrawn, and the rapid inflation and collapsing of the part of the cap which covered his mouth, evinced the intensity of his feelings at this awful moment. The drop at length fell, and he died almost without a struggle. Once or twice, when the executioner was gently holding down his legs, he raised himself slightly up, and there was a simultaneous convulsive movement of the shoulders for an instant; but he exhibited no other sign of life. He held a handkerchief in one of his hands, where it still remained tightly clamped when the body was cut down. His body hung the accustomed time, and then, being cut down, was carried inside the prison, where Mr. Bridges, of Liverpool, immediately took a cast of the head, which he says is, physiologically, decidedly bad.

The body was afterwards, according to the letter of the sentence, buried in a grave behind the chapel, within the precincts of the prison. A barbarous custom prevails in the prison at Stafford in the burial of criminals subjected to capital punishment, and it was adhered to in the case of Palmer. It will, perhaps, scarcely be credited that his body, on being removed from the scaffold, was divested of every article of clothing, and buried in a perfectly nude state, without even a shell. But so it was; and this was the ignominious end of William Palmer, the poisoner of Rugeley.

Early on the morning of Friday, the intense anxiety with regard to the execution was manifested by the numbers pouring into Stafford from all directions. The trains were crowded, and every successive arrival at the railway station augmented the number of visitors. During the day the town assumed more the appearance of some anticipated festivity, than of the fearful judicial spectacle which was so shortly to take place. The streets, despite the torrents of rain which fell during nearly the whole of Friday, were unusually crowded. The public-houses were full, and in many of them the jocund song and merry dance were kept up with unflagging energy, by numbers who had travelled far to glut their eyes with the death-struggles of a fellow-creature. One place of resort was the house where the hangman had located himself, every one being more or less anxious to obtain a sight of the man who was to be Palmer's executioner.

In the more immediate vicinity of the goal raised platforms were erected on every available spot from which a sight of the gallows could be obtained. Twenty-three of these erections crowded the goal and county road, the former of which runs parallel with the goal; and the charge for admission to some of the front seats was as high as a guinea for each person; half a guinea was the ordinary rate, but back standing-places were of course attainable for considerably less money. As not one half of the congregated thousands could get a view of the scaffold, those who had not a sight of it struggled with all their might to improve their positions. The erection of the scaffold, hung with black cloth, was taken as a proof that the execution was not to be deferred; and this certainty gave increased eagerness to get near the spot, and, if possible, to hear the dying speech which it was supposed Palmer would deliver.

As the hour of eight drew near, the excitement of the mob increased, but still there was no disturbance, and the police were not called upon to interfere. Long before that time all persons who intended to see the execution had assembled, and those of the crowd who were in the most distant places had made up their minds that it was impossible to better themselves, and were contented to know what was going on by the shouts of those in more favourable positions.

Amongst this immense crowd, about 80,000 tracts, suitable to the occasion, and a number of Bibles, were distributed by Mr. Redcliffe, a gentleman from Liverpool, and others; and in several of the dissenting places of worship continuous services were held during the night, on behalf of the unhappy culprit; whilst numberless preachers exercised their calling amongst the crowd during the early part of the morning.

The general impression amongst the authorities was, that Palmer was advised not to confess, in order that his memory might have the benefit of the doubt, for the sake of his son.

HENRY MAYHEW'S LECTURE AT THE ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.

On Monday last, Mr. Henry Mayhew entertained a very numerous auditory with an addition to the usual instructive announcements of this institution, in the shape of an interesting lecture on the "Chronicles of Life among the Labourers and Poor of London," being the first of the eighth course of Monday evening lectures to the working classes.

Mr. Mayhew divided his able address into two parts, in the first noticing the honest, and in the second the dishonest, classes of the London poor. In the former section, he ably delineated the trials and fortunes of "Old Polly, the hardy-gurdy grinder," as related from her own lips. With great narrative power, he detailed her life in the workhouse till her twentieth year; her learning the instrument on which she played to the day of her death; her favourite neighbourhoods, and in them the tunes which were most acceptable; and, lastly, the accident which deprived her of life. The next illustration of humble life, the fertile mind of Mr. Mayhew found in the daughter of a "peony-moss-traveller," who saved herself and parents from the workhouse, in the course of which several interesting facts were detailed. Sevenpence only was given per dozen for articles sold at a penny, and threepence-halfpenny for those at a halfpenny. Yet, strange to say, the subject of his narrative actually realised as much as £120 in a single year. Throughout this branch of his subject, Mr. Mayhew bore a noble testimony to the virtues of the poor of London; and he then passed to the dishonest class of the population.

Some time back, Mr. Mayhew observed, he took occasion to convene a meeting of juvenile thieves and vagabonds, and although he had given only two days' notice of the event, no fewer than 150 attended—presenting altogether a scene of squalor, rage, and wretchedness, which made the heart quake to look at. Their conduct was boisterous in the extreme, and they seemed to treat the offences which had been committed by them respectively, as if they thought the result a joke. There was one amongst them who, though not twenty years of age, had been incarcerated twenty-nine times, and when this fact was mentioned aloud, it was received with bursts of laughter and ribald jests. But, notwithstanding this state of depravity, an opportunity was offered for testing the honesty of these juvenile delinquents, and they were all most careful and anxious to show that they would not abuse the trust reposed in them. He (Mr. Mayhew) had, from time to time, received into his house numbers of professional robbers and pickpockets, and he had never lost a penny by any of them, nor had his children ever heard a coarse word from their lips. Mr. Mayhew then proceeded to say that many allowances were to be made for the delinquencies of even the most hardened offenders; and he continued by pre-creating a most interesting and touching picture of the scenes he had witnessed in the convict nursery of the female prison at Brixton, where the experience he had gained produced in his mind the reflection that those little babes who drew their first breath in a jail might naturally be expected to yield their last gasp within its walls. Having shown how sad was the example which these children received in the nursery he described, and how touching was the maternal feeling exhibited towards them by their unfortunate parents, Mr. Mayhew concluded by observing that real goodness was often to be discovered in what at first sight appeared to be little more than a life of crime. He then proceeded to say that many allowances were to be made for the delinquencies of even the most hardened offenders; and he continued by pre-creating a most interesting and touching picture of the scenes he had witnessed in the convict nursery of the female prison at Brixton, where the experience he had gained produced in his mind the reflection that those little babes who drew their first breath in a jail might naturally be expected to yield their last gasp within its walls.

THE CONVICT NURSERY AT BRIXTON.

(From Mayhew's "Great World of London.")

"Tits," said our attendant as we entered the pathetic place, while the matron led the first babe she met toward us, "is little Eliza; she was born in the jail at York, and is rather better than two years old."

The tiny creature hung its head, and struggled to get back to its mother, as we stooped down and held our hand out towards it; but the little thing had long been accustomed to see no man's face but that of the chaplain and the surgeon, and screamed to get further from us the nearer we drew towards it. She was a pretty grey-eyed child, and dressed the same as the other infants in the room, in a spotted blue frock—the convict baby-clothes. The mother of this one was the wife of a labouring man, and condemned to five years' imprisonment.

With the tears stinging our eyes, we passed on to the next little innocent—innocent for how long? She was called Jeanie, and was nearly two years and a half old; she had been born in Glasgow prison; the mother was unmarried, and sentenced to four years' penal servitude.

Little Sarah, the next we turned to, was a poor, white-faced infant, that had been born in Brixton prison itself seven months ago, and was sickly with its teething. The mother had to suffer four years' penal servitude, and was married to a private in the Fusilier Guards, but had not heard from him since her conviction.

The next babe was younger still, having been born in Brixton on the 7th of February last. This was a boy, and named Thomas. The mother was unmarried, and had four years' penal servitude to undergo.

Martha was the name of the next convict child; and she was a fair-haired, fresh-checked, pretty little thing, rather more than two years old, and asleep in the prison bed.

"That is the most timid child I ever met with," said the kind-hearted matron, who accompanied us throughout the day. "She was born in Lincoln Castle, and the mother—'She's unmarried,' whispered the officer, apart to us, as we jotted down the facts in our note-book—has ten years' transportation, and more than seven years still to serve."

"Ah! she's a sad romp," said our attendant, as we passed on to another child—Annie she was called. "She was tottering along as she held her mother's finger. 'She's two years and three months on the 21st of May, sir,' said the mother, in answer to our question, 'and was born in Lewes Jail. I've got six years' penal servitude.' Poor Annie! we inwardly exclaimed; for she was a can, fawn-haired, laughing little thing, that smiled as she looked up into our face."

"Not married!" added the wretched mother, timidly.

At this moment the Chaplain entered, when several of the little things toddled off towards the good man, and he raised them in his arms, and kissed them one after another. "Oh! I saw Tommy's mother the other day," said he to one of the women, in reference to an old prisoner who had obtained her liberty. "She's been doing very nicely. Tommy's been rather poorly, though. I hope I shall be able to get her another situation."

"There, you see," said the Minister, turning to us, as we pointed to the tin on an adjacent table, "is the nursery breakfast. There's a pint of milk for each child, and tea for the mothers."

at once serviceable and pretty. "They'd only those white-splashed blue things before, sir."

At another part of the day, we spoke with the Chaplain himself concerning the prison regulations upon such matters, and then he told us that at one time there had been as many as thirty children in that establishment, but he, the Secretary of State had issued an order forbidding them to receive children from other prisons. "It should be born here it is to stay with the mother—how long I cannot say," added the Minister; "but if born in jail before the mother comes here, it is sent to the prison—consequently she is sent to the prison to be with her child. We never had a child under four years, but at Millbank one child was kept so long incarcerated, that on going out of the prison it called a horse a cat. The little girl that we had here of four years of age, my child used to take to the Sunday-school, so it might mix a little with the world for she used to explain, when she was taken out into the road and saw a horse go by, 'Look at that great big doggo!'"

There is, indeed, no place in which there is so much toleration, and true wisdom, if not goodness, to be learnt as in the Convict Nursery at Brixton!

POLICE AND CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE.

BITING OFF A MAN'S NOSE.—John Dwyer, a constable, went on the evening of Friday week into public house, where he found another constable named John Duggan, with whom he had some words, which ended in blows. In the struggle, Duggan seized Dwyer by the neck, and having got his face close to his own, suddenly bit a large portion of his nose off, and the landlord of the public-house saw it drop on the floor, picked it up, and conveyed the wounded man to the hospital. Duggan was followed and given into custody.

Duggan said in defence, when charged at Thomas Street, that Dwyer fastened his teeth in his bosom, and that he nipped his nose off in return.

The Magistrate said that the act was that of a savage and atrocious ruffian, and committed the prisoner to trial.

CARD SHARPS IN RAILWAY CARRIAGES.—An Irish gentleman applied to the Magistrate at Lambeth for his advice under the following circumstances. On Thursday week last he was returning from Ascot races with a friend, and finding the first-class compartments of all the first-class carriages full, they got into second-class, and they were followed by three well-dressed men. As soon as the train was in motion, one placed a shawl across his knees, and commenced shuffling a pack of cards. He then placed three of the cards in such a way as, apparently, to expose each, and offered to bet that no one could point out the Queen of Spades. Applicant, as well as his friend, was induced to bet, and he lost all he had, £4 10s., and his friend £2. A "gentleman" who sat by his side urged him to continue, and offered to lend him any sum he required to play with, although a perfect stranger. He borrowed of this person £25, and lost it all, making in the whole £29 10s. When he got out of the train, he took the gentleman to his lodgings, and paid him a £20 note and a £5 note. One of the men won £10 from the card player, but applicant only won the first time.

The Magistrate had no doubt that the parties were all card sharps, and that the man who lent applicant the money, as well as the other who won the £10, were all in a league, of which applicant and his friend were the victims.

Mr. Bent, police inspector on the railway, came forward and said that he knew the parties, on which the Magistrate intimated that the applicant could do better than have the matter in Mr. Bent's hands.

ALLEGED MANSLAUGHTER BY THE SURGEON OF A LUNATIC ASYLUM.—Mr. Charles Snape, the resident surgeon of the County Lunatic Asylum, at Wandsworth, was summoned to Bow Street on Monday, to answer the charge of having killed Daniel Dolley, aged 65, an inmate of that establishment. From the evidence, it appeared that Dolley was occasionally troublesome, not only to the officers, but to the other inmates of the asylum. Early in the morning of the 9th of April, Dolley having been reported as excitable, Mr. Snape directed the attendants to put him into the shower-bath—a method of punishment commonly practised in the asylum. Dolley had been punished in a similar way about a week before, which may account for the repugnance manifested by him on this occasion to that sort of treatment; for, on seeing Mr. Snape, with the key in his hand, proceeding towards the bath-door, Dolley struck him a violent blow on the head, and tried to escape. He was followed, and brought back to the bath-room by force. Mr. Snape desired the attendants to strip him. They did so. Dolley then went into the bath. The cold water was turned upon him. He was kept there twenty-eight minutes; and within fifteen or sixteen minutes after he was taken out he died. To these facts the keepers gave evidence, but denied, at the same time, that the bath was commonly used as a punishment; that patients had been kept there for as long as twenty minutes before; and that, in their opinion, it did the patients good. A post mortem examination had been held by Mr. Snape himself, and other medical officers of the institution, and it was concluded among them that the patient had died of heart disease. One surgeon, however, Dr. Diamond, deputed to the conclusion; and his opinion seems to have been strengthened by subsequent examinations. The inquiry is adjourned.

GREAT ROBBERY OF GOLD—CAPTURE OF THE THIEVES.—A few days since, a discovery of a most extensive robbery of gold and silver (amounting to nearly £11,000) was made at the Bank of England. Several boxes, supposed to contain specie, had arrived at Southampton, by the Solent, West India steamer, and were consigned for security to the custody of the Bank authorities. On undergoing examination, the discovery was made that the whole of the precious metal had been abstracted, and that shot and humps of lead had been substituted. The boxes were from different merchants at New Granada, and appeared to have been shipped at Cartagena, on board the steamship above named, for England. Subsequently notice was posted at Lloyd's, for the information of the public, that the police at Cartagena, after the departure of the steamer, had received information of the robbery, and had taken into custody the thieves, with about 120 lbs. weight of gold (£5,000) in their possession, a portion of the plunder. The parties implicated are said to be the carriers who brought the boxes to Cartagena from the interior of the country. Other parties were also suspected, whose apprehension, up to the last advice, had not been accomplished.

MURDER.—A man named Hodges was last week found lying dead on the road between Stroud and Nailsworth. His hip was cut open, and there was a stab in his groin, which the surgeon examined at the inquest and was the cause of death. In consequence of some suspicious circumstances, one W. Hoskins was taken into custody. Hoskins does not deny that he and Hodges had a quarrel on the road, that they fought with their knives, and that he left his antagonist lying on the ground. The dead man does not appear to have been robbed. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of manslaughter, and the Magistrate committed Hoskins to trial on a charge of wilful murder.

EXTRAORDINARY CRUELTY AND ARSON.—At Birmingham, on Tuesday week, a girl named Catherine Ballard, fourteen years old, was charged with wilfully setting fire to a boy, two years of age, the child of her employer, a person named Middleton, and also with setting fire to her master's house in several places. It appears that she had been scolded by Mrs. Middleton for allowing a child, of which she had the care, to be severely scolded by the overturning of a basin of hot milk. This seems to have rankled in her mind. On the following afternoon she took the deceased boy into the sitting room, and closed the door. In a few minutes loud screams were heard, and out of the room rushed the poor child, with the upper part of his dress on fire. Though the flames were at once extinguished, he was so severely burned that he died on Saturday. On the intervening day (Friday) the girl set the house on fire in five different places. In the first instance, one of the beds in the children's room was discovered on fire; and after it had been removed into the yard and put in pieces, in order to extinguish the flames, another bed had

to be similarly treated. While this was being done, the girl said, "I wonder if there is a fire in the lumber room." In this room a fire was found. A towel and bedgown were afterwards discovered on fire in the kitchen, and another attempt was made to fire the lumber-room. A police officer went to the door, and after three minutes gave the girl into custody. At the inquest, most of these circumstances were deposed to, but the evidence being incomplete, an adjournment was ordered.

A BOLD HOUSE-STEALER.—A person, attired as a carrier, walked deliberately into the stables of Messrs. Baital, near Glasgow, and after marching through a throng of servants, seized a lot of the finest animals in the stables. He rubbed at the horses with a wisp of straw, and covered it with a rug which was long at hand. Then, taking with him a bunch of hay under a pretence to prevent suspicion, he calmly led the horse by a halter from the stables, and requesting one of the bystanders to give him a lift on his horse, mounted on "hot haste," and disappeared. Up to the present moment no trace of the daring delinquent has been discovered. The horse has been sold in the Grassmarket, Edinburgh, for £11, being only one-third of its value.

HORRIBLE DEATH BY SUFFOCATION.—On the afternoon of Friday week a man named John Jones was engaged in making a breach sewer for the purpose of draining a cesspool at Patch Park, Liverpool, assisted by a person named Thomas Guss. Jones broke a hole through the cesspool wall, for the purpose of making a connection with the sewer, when he was overpowered by the effluvia, and fell into the drain with his face downward. Guss jumped in to render him assistance, and instantly shared a similar fate; when another man, named John Watson, also went to the rescue, but was in a moment overpowered. A fourth man, Edward Williams, next jumped in, and would also have succumbed, had not timely aid arrived. When lifted out of the drain, Jones and Guss were quite dead, and Watson and Williams utterly unconscious, but they gradually recovered. At the inquest, held at Liverpool on Saturday, it was stated that, after the accident, five feet deep of nightsoil was found in the cesspool, and that it had not been cleaned out efficiently for four years. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

The return of Mr. Crofton, our late Minister at Washington, has rather improved the general tone of the money market, especially as it is understood that Mr. Dallas will remain here to settle the pending differences between this country and the United States, in respect of the amount of money business doing in consols. Money for commercial purposes has been quite so abundant as of late, yet the supply is ample. The leading bankers in Lombard Street are giving 1 1/4 per cent for money on call, a good deal for the day, and a low rate in value for some considerable period.

The movement of Indian banks, however, and we learn that very large quantities of gold are to be sent from Australia, in which colony matters are rapidly improving.

The foreign funds have been quiet, and prices have shown a tendency to improve. Turkish 4 per cents have realised 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 5 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 6 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 7 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 8 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 9 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 10 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 11 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 12 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 13 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 14 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 15 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 16 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 17 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 18 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 19 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 20 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 21 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 22 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 23 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 24 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 25 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 26 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 27 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 28 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 29 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 30 per cents, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4, the 31 per cents, 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